

ASSECAA: Vision & Achievements

(Second Issue)



**Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent
Councils in Africa and the Arab World
(ASSECAA)**



Message from the Chairman of ASSECAA

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 2nd Edition of the book 'ASSECAA: Vision and Achievements' which is an annual publication of the general secretariat of the Association based in Yemen. It is a book that targets to bring to lime light the activities/programmes of ASSECAA, which include the relations between the member countries, retreats which aim at sensitizing members of their functions as legislators and encourage them in the cross-fertilization of ideas between them. It also buttresses the contributions of member countries towards the achievement of the association's goals.

I would like to recognize today in this book the strenuous efforts that have been made and the energies devoted to the life of the association by the Speakers of Member Councils, who have at one time or another assumed the chairmanship of our Association and the management of the Secretariat to achieve the objectives of ASSECAA.

The Association reached maturity this year as it celebrated its 10th anniversary at the African Union hall, Addis Ababa, on the 5th of April 2014. This requires all stakeholders in the association and others who feel

concerned in forging a solid afro-Arab cooperation to work harder and give more attention and commitment towards the values and principles of Arab and African civilizations and to have more faith in the ability of our peoples and their representatives to carry out the strategic role as a geographic, demographic, and historical entity rich in achievements that benefit humanity.

We have marched along with the efforts and endeavors exerted by individuals and organizations to consolidate the desire in having African and Arab regions peaceful, stable and to realize fast economic development that brings about prosperity to our peoples. We confirm today the importance of what has so far been achieved since the creation of the Association with respect to enhancing its role in extending a robust bridge for consolidating the bonds of economic and sustainable cooperation, joint action among Arab and African countries as well as the attainment of the noble objectives and principles for which the Association was founded.

However, let me reiterate that Africa and the Arab World cannot achieve the desired goals in the midst of lack of good governance, threats from corruption, terrorism and violence. The wars, rumors of wars and hunger that have taken the centre stage following the conflicts that have



engulfed our two regions constitute a setback for our development.

I believe that we need to move beyond rendering good speeches. What we need right now in Africa and the Arab World is collective action. Action to bring about good governance action against corruption, action against terrorism, action against violence and action against hunger without which our efforts towards development will be in vain.

Member councils of ASSECAA in collaboration with each other can through their instruments of legislation, representation, information counseling and oversight in their different governments venture to fight corruption and terrorism, promote peace and security, and foster efforts for food security and employment opportunities .

The same instruments can work in empowering and enlightening our women population to enable them participate in the politics of our countries and share with us the responsibility of establishing good governance and stand against the vices that draw us back from development.

I would like to remind all readers that the philosophy of any political entity is to gather people, women and men of all ages from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds around a common passion, joint activity and common values. It is this diversity and mixture that make the richness

of a political entity like ASSECAA tick as it allows exchange of ideas, sharing of experiences and tolerate differences in order to achieve a common goal.

As you read this publication, it is my earnest desire that you will strive to achieve the above points within your association's political entity, with other persons and organizations. This issue brings to light store of knowledge that were shared by participants or delegates from member councils and which might not have been conveyed to other members of councils. By publishing this issue ASSECAA has now started venturing to reach other members of the Senates, Shoora and equivalent councils. This will definitely help those members who have not got the opportunity to participate in ASSECAA meetings to know the gist of the matter. I pray that this book would find a place in the councils'/senates' shelves and serve as a reference material in any way it can for those who will come across it.

H.E Kassa Teklebrahn,

Speaker of the House of
Federation of Ethiopia



FOREWORD

Rationality confirms that humanity demands of every one of us to strive to make the world a better place for living. This goes along with the very purpose for which mankind exists; to live in peace with his environment and to develop everything around him, focusing on the betterment of himself, which aims at ultimate wellbeing of the universe.

The founders of the Association of Senates, Shoorah and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) have felt the need to pull together the scattered efforts of the various Senates, Shoorah and Equivalent Councils into one joint and strong institution and have established ASSECAA to help them contribute their share towards making the world a better place to live in.

This noble and ultimate wellbeing of every rational being must be firmly inculcated into our minds to the extent that every one of us is readily conscious about it. This requires systematic effort of those who have assumed leadership through public trust to raise the level of public awareness.

The leaders of ASSECAA have agreed to organize three to four meetings every year to enable their delegates to come together and share ideas and experiences on how to execute the objectives they set for their Association.

Over the last decade those delegates who got the opportunity to attend such meetings have benefited a lot to advance our common objectives one step forward.

We at the General Secretariat felt the need to bring to light the wealth of knowledge confined only to those delegates who participated in ASSECAA programs and we decided to use this second Issue of ASSECAA Vision and Achievements” as a means to publicize it.

The above is made possible by concerted efforts of our staff who tried their best to identify the required documents, summarize each article and make it ready for publication. They also undertook the required translation and design, and above all assumed the responsibility of an Editorial Board.

In recognition of their commendable effort we have acknowledged their input in the book.

Without the support of all our council members who hosted our various meetings and the encouragement of our Speakers and Heads of delegations, none of our achievements could have been possible.

In my concluding remark, we at the General Secretariat call for our members’ continuous support and encouragement to carry out ASSECAA’s objectives of contributing its quota to make our world a better place to live in.

Abdulwasie Yusuf Ali

Secretary General



Introduction

Afro-Arab cooperation is considered as one of the oldest regional cooperation initiatives, as it far exceeds a simple geographical relationship to cover deeper aspects of economic, cultural and human ties. This cooperation has been established through the course of long centuries of social mobility and cultural interaction between Arab and African worlds.

This has culminated in launching formal and institutional relationships between Africa and the Arab world, especially after the first Africa-Arab summit, convened in March 1977 in Cairo. The summit witnessed the establishment of several institutions for cooperation in various fields. During the past four decades, strong efforts have been made to boost Afro-Arab cooperation in the economic, financial and cultural areas (BADEA, 2005).

By the 1970s substantial Arab-African cooperation had already come into being and was institutionalized at the summit in Cairo in 1977. The goal was to bring about a balance of interests between Arab oil states that acquired substantial foreign currency revenue and the resource and water-rich African states. With financial investment from the Arab states, both the economic development of Africa and the supply of food (the “breadbasket strategy”) and raw materials from Africa to the Arab states would be effectuated (GIGA – German Institute of Global and Area Studies, 2010).

The same hunger for cooperation between Africa and the Arab World was rekindled in the hearts of heads of senates and shoora councils in Africa and the Arab World who gathered at the sidelines of the World council of senates held in Paris, France, in 2000 and decided to take the afro-

Arab relations further through parliamentary cooperation. The Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) was therefore created in the year 2004 to further cement the decisions that have followed different meetings between 2000 and 2004 when finally it was established.

Among the objectives of the Association is the promotion of economic, political, social and cultural cooperation between the two regions. In line with the set targets, ASSECAA has continued to organize meetings; programmes and activities in order to enable it take its rightful place in the world arena. A detailed account of the Association’s vision, objectives and activities has been published in the first edition of “ASSECAA: Vision and Achievements” in 2013.

This second edition will include an update on ASSECAA’s activities, profiles of chairpersons and pictorial presentations of the above-mentioned. It shall also comprise the Association’s vision, statute and its rules of procedure. This will enable readers gain insight on what ASSECAA stands for and its modus operandi towards achieving its objectives.

Since inception, ASSECAA has been involved in the organization of, and participation in several meetings geared towards achieving its goals. Such meetings have been presented boldly in the first edition of the work. They include the council and conference of the Association which is the major decision making organ of the Association, retreat meetings for parliamentarians, chambers of commerce meetings for African and Arab business men and companies, peace and conflict resolution meetings, women parliamentary meeting targeting women empowerment in politics and greater participation in decision making, etc.



The book also contains summarized versions of selected work papers prepared by respected academicians and public policy experts during the Association's different meetings in the areas of economic cooperation, democracy and human rights, culture, peace and security and women empowerment.

They include:

- The Role of Cultural Heritage in Boosting Understanding among Nations by Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah, Professor of Archeology, Sana'a University, which describes culture as an intellectual and moral activity that springs from most profound human feelings, an activity that keeps abreast of time from which it derives an ability to move on.

- Afro-Arab Spring: Socio-political trajectories to stem the Global Financial Crises by B.T Costantinos, Professor of Public Policy, School of Graduate Studies, Addis Ababa University. He argued that the subprime crisis is the most visible of economic derivatives that have spun out of control with homes losing their values at unprecedented rate in recent memory.

- Procedural standards for building democracies by Dr. Saud Mohammed Al-Shawoosh, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Center for Political and Strategic Studies - University of Sana'a, Yemen who argued that in spite of the ambiguity inherent in the definition of democracy, democratic systems share a common quality, namely the responsibility of rulers to their own people, who exercise their oversight role through representatives chosen in competitive free and fair elections.

- Exploring the causes and dynamics of armed Conflicts in Africa/by Ochinya O. Ojiji Department

of General & Applied Psychology University of Jos, Nigeria. This paper points out that the loss of lives and destruction of vital infrastructure for development that usually accompany the conflicts in Africa has compounded an already bleak picture of Africa which is occasioned by disease as well as mismanagement of resources.

We have mentioned a few papers just to arouse the interest of readers in discovering the rich and dynamic contents of this publication. This book shall also present some of the papers written by students during the first and second ASSECAA CUP of Excellence competitions, in 2013 and 2014.

The work also contains major resolutions and recommendations emanating from the organization's conferences and other important meetings over the years to grant the public insight on how the association intends to realize its laudable objectives.

It is our earnest expectation that all that would come across this publication will find it as a worthy and resourceful preparation that would meet up with their desired knowledge acquisition quest.

Nkemjika Egwim

Assistant Secretary General



ASSECAA's Rotating Chairmanship:

Several heads of member councils/senates have rotated the chairmanship of ASSECAA since its inception in 2004. Below are profiles of ASSECAA's Chairmen:

Current Chairman Mr. Kassa Teklebrhan Gebrehiwot:

•Education: M.A. in Organizational Leadership

Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA, USA (May 2006)

•B.Sc in Economics
Civil Service
University
Ethiopia (August 2002)



•Leadership Experiences:
•Speaker, the House of Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

*Bureaus Head, Amhara Regional State of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia:

•Trade and Industry (September 2007 – September 2010),

•Administration and Security (September 2006 – September 2007 and September 2002 – April 2005),

•Agriculture and Rural Development (April 2005 – September 2005),

•Public Relations and Mass Mobilization (April 1993 – October 1998),

•Deputy Chief Command, National Defense, Ethiopia Transitional Government (May 1991 - April 1993)

On job Leadership Experiences:

•Chairperson, Addis Ababa University Management Board (Since 2012)

•Chairperson, Amhara Development Organization (Since 2009)

Chairperson, ASSECAA (Since April 2014)

•Chairperson, Subsidy and Shared

Revenues Sharing Standing Committee, the House of Federation of the FDRE (Five years)

•Member, Ethio-Sudan Joint Boundary Commission (three years)

•Board Member, Gondar University

*Central Committee and Polite Bureau member, Ethiopian People Revolutionary Democratic Front (the Ruling Ethiopian Political Party) for more than Fifteen years

•Committee Member, National Security Council (three years)

•Member, Local Development Organization (more than Fourteen years)

•Initiator and Implementer, Inter Regional Committee on Development, Good Governance and Conflict Management between neighboring States

•Designer and Implementer, Justice System Reform program (three years)

Other

•Designed, Implemented and commanded the armed struggle to overthrow the Derg Regime(for nine years).

•Award Winner, International Student of the year, Azusa Pacific University

His Excellency Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, president of Shoura Council of Bahrain:

•Bachelor degree of commerce, Ain Shams University .

•Member of the Constituent Assembly, 1973.

•Member of the National Assembly from 1973 to 1975.

•Vice-chairman of Chamber of Commerce and industry of Bahrain.

•Member of the supreme council of economic development ,





June 11, 2000.

- Member of the Board of trustees of Bahrain university .
- Second Deputy – Speaker of Shoora council of Bahrain , first session , 1993.
- Minister of Commerce and Industry 1995 – 2004 .
- Chairman of the Directorate of Bahrain Stock Exchange , 1995 – 2004.
- Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture Affairs, 2005 -2006.
- Speaker of Shoora council of Bahrain, the second legislative term 15 December, 2006.
- Speaker of Shoora council of Bahrain , the third legislative term , 14 December , 2010.
- Chairman of ASSECAA , 2013.

Mr. Gabriel Ntisezerana, President of the Senate of Burundi:

H.E Gabriel Ntisezerana, a Burundian economist and politician, He had assumed the following positions:

- The Second Vice President of Burundi from Feb.12, 2007 to August 28, 2010.
- Speaker of the Senate of Burundi from August, 2010.



Chairman of ASSECAA', 2012 .

Madam Rose Francis Rogombe, President of the Senate of Gabon:

- Hailing from Ghalo tribe, Mrs. Rogombe was born on 20th September, 1942, in the city of Lambarene, 240 km to the northeast of Libreville..
- Received education in law, and

graduated from Nanci Collge of Law, France.

- Obtained a degree in theology in 2007.

• Worked as a counselor in April 2008, and has been representing the first constituency in Lambarene, the Capital of the middle



Ogooue region since Jan.1, 2009.

- Served as the minister of women and human rights under prime minister Leon M'ba..

• Elected speaker of the Senate on Feb.17, 2009, and served as the acting president of the Republic from June 10, 2009, following the demise of late President Omar Bongo Ondemba, to October 16, 2009, when Mr. Ali Omar Bongo was inaugurated as President of the Republic.

- Assumed the chairmanship of ASSECAA in 2011.

Dr. Mohammed Cheikh Baidallah, Speaker of the House of Counselors of Morocco:

- Born in Samara, Morocco in 1949.
- Obtained a PhD degree in Medicine in 1979, and worked, during that same year, as a doctor at Ibn Rushd hospital, Casablanca.

• Worked as a prominent professor and researcher in internal medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, Casablanca, 1987.

- Elected as a member of Parliament representing the city of



Al-Samara in 1977, and was re-elected to the same position in 1984.



cooperation, borders, occupied areas, and national defense.

- ♦ Elected chairman of the committee on supplies, post and telecommunications.
- ♦ Served as the Minister of Health from 2002 to 2007.
- ♦ Assumed the Chairmanship of ASSECAA in 2010.

H.E Ali Yahya Abdullah, Speaker of the Council of States of Sudan (2009):

♦ Born in Al-Junainah, Sudan, 1951. ♦ Obtained a Bachelor's degree in Law at Um Durman Islamic University. He assumed the following positions:



- ♦ Chairman of West Darfur state Court of Appeal.
- ♦ Chairman of West Darfur State's Judiciary, 1995.
- ♦ Member of the Constitutional Court, 1998.
- ♦ Member of the advisory board at the Cabinet.
- ♦ Member of Darfur committee on

dialogue.

♦ He Took over the chairmanship of ASSECAA in 2009.

Late H.E Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, Speaker of Shoora Council, Republic of Yemen (2004-2008):

♦ Born in Haifan, Taiz, Yemen, in July 1939.

♦ Obtained a Master's degree in Economics at Colorado University, 1964.

♦ Obtained an honorary PhD degree in Economics at Colorado University, 1978.



♦ Served as the Prime Minister of the formerly Yemen Arab Republic from 1983-1990.

♦ Served as a member of Yemen's Presidential Council, 1990.

♦ Acted as Assistant Secretary General of the General People's Congress (GPC) from 1990-1995.

♦ Worked as a member of the World Bank's advisory board from 1993-1997.

♦ Served as Yemen's premier from 1994-97.

♦ Served as Speaker of the Advisory Council, 1997.

♦ Served as Speaker of Shoora Council from 2001-2011.

♦ Served as Chairman of ASSECAA from 2004-2008.



Assecaa General Secretariat's Management



Mr. Abdulwasie Yusuf Ali

Secretary General

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



Mr. Nkemjika Egwim

Assist. Secretary General for
Parliamentary Cooperation, Finance & Admin.
The Federal Republic of Nigeria



Mr. Mohammed M. Al-Tayeb

Assistant Secretary General for Political
and Cultural Affairs
Republic of Yemen



Assecaa General Secretariat 's Staff



Anwar Al-Shoaybi
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**Abdul Fattah
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**Jean Paul
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Ameen Al-Oqaida
Computer Engineer



Yasmien Al-Eryani
secretary



Mariam Al-Zubair
secretary



Rawad Alasbhi
Driver



Mohammed Abdo
Support staff



ASSECAA's Activities

In pursuit of its objectives, ASSECAA has, since its creation, undertaken various activities out of its keenness to keep up with the accelerated global changes, contribute effectively to addressing lots of sticking points, and lay down outlines aimed at promoting economic cooperation, boosting human rights, contributing to conflict resolutions and jump-starting cultural and parliamentary cooperation among member states.

The following table shows the activities that have so far been undertaken by the Association based on the spheres through which ASSECAA seeks to foster sustainable cooperation between Africa and Arab world.

Table illustrates ASSECAA's activities based on committees and events:

activities	Committee	Spheres
Rabat Conference, 2002. Constituent conference, Sana'a, Yemen, 2004. Second conference, Sana'a, Yemen, 2007. Third conference, Khartoum, Sudan, 2008. Fourth conference, Rabat, Morocco, 2009. Fifth conference, Libreville, Gabon, 2011. Sixth conference, Bujumbura, Burundi, 2012. Seventh conference, Manama, Bahrain, 2013. eighth Conference, Addis ababa, Ethiopia, 2014. (10 th anniversary commemoration of ASSECAA)	Meetings of speakers of member councils	Conferences
Cape Town Meeting, South Africa, 2008. Manama Meeting, Bahrain, 2010. Rabat Meeting, Morocco, 2012.	Meetings of chambers of commerce & industry	Economic coopera- tion
ASSECAA Day for Democracy and Human Rights, Sana'a, Yemen, 2012. ASSECAA Day for Culture, 2013. ASSECAA Day for promoting peace , security and good governance 2014.		Democracy and Human Rights. Culture. Peace, Secuti- ty & good governance peace, security, and good governance
Abuja Meeting, Nigeria, 2009. Khartoum Meeting, Sudan, 2010. Khartoum Meeting, Sudan, 2011. Khartoum Meeting ,Sudan, 2014	Committee on Women Parliamentarians	Empowerment of women
Abuja Meeting, Nigeria, 2007 Bujumbura meeting, Burundi, 2009. Addis Ababa meeting, Ethiopia, 2013.	Committee on Peace and Conflict Resolu- tion	Peace and Conflict Resolutions
First Retreat, Abuja, Nigeria, 2006. Second Retreat, Dead Sea Region, Jordan, 2007. Third Retreat, Nouakchott, Mauritania, 2008. Fourth Retreat, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2011. Fifth Retreat, bujumbura, Burundi, 2013	Retreats Study Visit Exchange Program	Cultural and Parlia- mentary cooperation



Part One: Statutory/Administrative documents of the Association

1- ASSECAA Statute



FORWARD

The speakers or presiding officers of the following Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World assembled in Rabat, Morocco on 6 and 7 June 2002:

i) The National Council of the Provinces of South Africa



ii) The Council of the Nation of Algeria



iii) The House of Chiefs of Botswana



iv) The House of the Federation of Ethiopia



v) The Senate of Gabon



vi) The Senate of Jordan



vii) The Senate of Lesotho



viii) The House of Counsellors of Morocco



ix) The Senate of Mauritania



x) The National Council of Namibia



xi) The Senate of Nigeria



xii) The Senate of Swaziland



xiii) The Shoora Council of Yemen



- Noting with satisfaction the spread of the bicameral parliamentary system in Africa and the Arab World, and the desire of numerous states to adopt this system in the near future.

- Aware of the importance of sharing in the common values of democracy and the rule of law.

- Keen to see these Assemblies play an active role in strengthening ties of cooperation between Arab and African states in the field of respecting cultural diversity, and contribute to the promotion of the role of the Second Chambers in enhancing democracy.

- Looking forward to strengthening the position of African and Arab states in the course of the accelerating changes which the world is witnessing in different spheres and complying with the logic of unity and conglomeration imposed by the rise of the tempo of globalisation.

- Seriously desirous to play a more effective role in the international efforts aimed at the elimination of all causes of tension and violence, and to contribute to the establishment of security and peace in Africa, the Middle East and the rest of the World.

- Aspiring to the strengthening of the efforts to fight against poverty, famine and underdevelopment in all its forms and the reinforcement of the role of women in the achievements of global and durable development for all people.

Agreed on this day 7th June 2002 to pursue the establishment of a body to be known as the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA) and resolved to adopt the following statute:

Art.1 MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Association is open to all African and Arab Senates and Second Chambers that ask for



participation as full members.

This Association also welcomes non-African and non-Arab similar Assemblies as well as parliamentary organizations to take part in its works as observers.

Art.2 OBJECTIVES

The foremost objective of the Association of Senates, Shooras and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World is to strengthen parliamentary bicameral systems, to reinforce economic, political and cultural cooperation and security among the peoples it represents, to support and join Arab, African and International parliamentary efforts, and to contribute to the parliamentary activities of the Arab, African and International Parliamentary Unions and engage in the dialogues emanating from them with the purpose of supporting these efforts to achieve the objectives of the Association.

Art.3 PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES

The Association of Senates/Second Chambers in Africa and the Arab World shall:

- Organize for its members at least one annual meeting on subjects of common interest;
- Carry out joint studies, facilitate cooperation among parliamentary administrations by exchange of training and experience.
- Set up, upon a proposal from one of its members, an ad hoc group composed of speakers and presiding officers of Assemblies or their representatives to make a specific parliamentary study.

Art.4 DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

The Association determines the issues under discussion by consensus, or by the majority of two-thirds of its Members.

Art.5 MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The Association shall hold its annual meetings in one of the member countries according to alphabetical order, otherwise in a member country, which offers to host the meeting.
2. Until the next meeting of the Association is convened, the Speaker or Presiding Officer of the hosting Assembly undertakes the task of coordination among the different member Assemblies.

3. An extraordinary meeting shall be held upon the request of one of the Presiding Officers and on the approval of two-third majority. Such a meeting is to be held in the country of the initiating presiding officer.

Art.6 AGENDA

1. The Agenda of the Association's meeting shall be adopted upon a proposal from the host country.
2. The Member Assemblies shall be informed of the date and Agenda of the ordinary meeting of the Association at least two months before the meeting.
3. The Date and Agenda of the extraordinary meeting shall reach all member countries at least, one month before the meeting.
4. In both cases the working documents shall be circulated two weeks before the date of the meeting.

Art.7 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

The Board of the Conference is composed of the Chairperson of the host country, the Chairperson of the former conference, the Chairperson hosting the coming conference and the Secretariat of the Association.

At the end of every meeting of the Association, the Secretariat shall prepare a summary of the deliberations and circulate it among the Association's Member Assemblies.

Art.8 MEETING LANGUAGES

Arabic, French and English shall be considered as the Association's languages. The hosting Assembly shall provide simultaneous interpretation from and to these languages.

Art.9 AMENDMENTS

1. These Statutes may be amended upon a proposal made by a Speaker or Presiding Officer of a Member Assembly. The proposal for amendments shall be presented at the General Meeting of the Association to be adopted by consensus.
2. The President of the Association shall notify all the Member Assemblies of every proposal for amendment.



2- Mission Statement

The presiding officers of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World assembled in Rabat, Morocco from 6th to 7th June 2002:

- Noted with satisfaction the spread of the bicameral parliamentary system in Africa and the Arab World and the desire of numerous states to adopt this system in the near future.
- Aware of the importance of sharing in the common values of democracy and the rule of law.
- Keen to see these upper chambers of excellent statesmen play an active role in strengthening ties of cooperation between Arab and African States in the various fields of human and nation-state endeavours.
- Determined to create a strong inter-regional organ that will robustly and persistently ensure the unreserved commitment of the second chambers in enhancing the practice of democracy.
- Looking forward to strengthening the position of African and Arab states in the course of the accelerating changes, which the world is witnessing in different spheres and complying with the logic of unity and conglomeration imposed by the rise of the tempo of globalization.
- Seriously desirous to play a more effective role in the international efforts aimed at the elimination of all causes of tension and violence, and to contribute to the establishment of security and peace in Africa, the Middle East and the rest of the World.
- Aspiring to the strengthening of the efforts to fight against poverty, famine and underdevelopment in all its forms and the reinforcement of the role of women in the achievements of global and durable development for all people.

Agreed on this day 7th June 2002 to pursue the establishment of a body to be known as the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA).

Establishment of the Association

The presiding officers and leaders of the Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World assembled in Sana'a in the Republic of Yemen from 25th to 27th of April and unanimously adopted the Resolution that established the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World, as

well as the pertaining Statute and Rules of Procedures.

Objectives

The Association accordingly outlined for itself the following aims and objectives:

- I) To encourage, support and strengthen parliamentary bicameral systems in and outside the African and Arab regions.
- II) To encourage, support and strengthen cooperation in economic, political, social and cultural spheres between the African and Arab regions and in the world at large.
- III) To regularly organize meetings and dialogues among Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in the member states and to undertake joint actions to advance cooperation and exchange expertise.
- IV) To coordinate the efforts of Senates and Equivalent Councils in regional and international conferences and organizations.
- V) To contribute in the parliamentary activities of Arabs, African and international Unions and effectively participate in the dialogues originating from them.
- VI) To deliberate upon issues of common interest within national and international spheres and to make appropriate recommendation and adopt practical resolutions concerning them.
- VII) To resolutely engage in efforts to deepen awareness of democratic values and concepts.
- VIII) To engage in the encouragement and protection of the role of civil society organizations and human rights.
- IX) Above all, the Association seeks to constitute a formidable bridge of cooperation for Africa and the Arab World to enable the region to harness its potentials to benefit from the world-wide conscious trend towards conglomeration and regionalization.

General Secretariat

Sana'a, Yemen

1st May 2005



3-RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF SENATES, Shoora and Equivalent COUNCILS IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD

Article 1: THE RULES

Pursuant to our Resolution adopting the statute for the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World, the Association hereby adopts the following Rules of Procedure:

Article 2: INTERPRETATION

The following terms and expressions shall have the meanings clarified in the context given opposite:

The Association: The Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent

Councils in Africa and the Arab World.

The Council: The Council of the Association.

The Conference: The General Conference of the Association.

The Chairman: The Chairman of the Council of the Association.

The Secretary General: The Secretary General of the Association.

The General Secretariat: The General Secretariat of the Association.

The Headquarters: The Headquarters of the Association.

Article 3: OBJECTIVES

The Association shall endeavour to implement the provisions of the Association's Statute and achieve the following aims and objectives:

-Supporting bicameralism and enhancing cooperation among nations of the World in various fields.

-Supporting the Arab, African, Islamic and International efforts and going in parallel with them.

-Promoting meetings and dialogues among Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils (Assemblies), and

among their members for promoting joint action, advancing cooperation and exchanging expertise.

-Co-ordinating the efforts of Senates and Equivalent Councils (Assemblies) in Regional and International Conferences and Organizations.

- Contributing in the Parliamentary activities of Arab, African and International Unions and in the dialogues originating there from.

- Discussing issues of common interest within the national and international spheres to take appropriate recommendations and resolutions concerning them.

- Deepening awareness of democratic values and concepts and promoting the role of Civil Society Organizations and protection of Human Rights.

Article 4: MEMBERSHIP

The Association consists of the Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils of Member Countries.

Article 5: ORGANS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association shall have the following Organs:

a) The Conference

b) The Council of the Association

c) The Secretariat

Article 6: THE CONFERENCE

- The Conference undertakes to study issues referred to it, within the authorities stipulated in Article No. (3), and issues its recommendations and resolutions concerning them in conformity with these issues. In the event of difference of opinion, resolutions shall be adopted by two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

- The Conference also has the power to consider amending the Statute and to endorse it according to the procedures defined in Article (9) of the Association's statute.

- The Conference, pursuant to a proposal submitted by the Conference office, forms committees from within its members to assist in carrying out its tasks. The number of such Committees and Experts shall be decided by the Conference itself.



Article 7: VENUE AND TIME OF CONFERENCE

The Conference shall be convened at the time and place determined by the Council whenever the conference deems it appropriate to consider the issues proposed by the Council.

Article 8: CONFERENCE DELEGATES

The Conference is made up of delegates from Member Senates, Shoora or Councils. The chairmanship of the Conference is entrusted to the host country.

Article 9: THE CONFERENCE OFFICE

The Conference Office of the Secretariat shall facilitate meetings of the Conference and follow up the tasks referred to it by the Conference.

Article 10: INFORMATION TO MEMBER SENATES, SHOORA OR COUNCIL

Each delegation shall inform its Council, Senate or Shoora about the resolutions and recommendations made by the Conference.

Article 11: THE COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION

a) The Council is composed of two members representing each Senate, Shoora or Council. Names of the representatives shall be forwarded to reach the Secretariat before the date set for the Council's meeting. Member States shall have the right to delegate other members as observers, provided that the additional number should not exceed three.

b) The State holding the Chairmanship shall have the right to pass it over to the next Member State in alphabetical order.

c) Extension of Chairmanship can be granted for a second term with the approval of two-thirds of the Member States.

d) Each Council, Shoora or Senate has one vote at the Association's Council Meeting.

Article 12: DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL

The Council shall enjoy the following responsibilities:

a) Drafting and amending the Rules of Procedures, drawing the financial and administrative regulations and any other Statutes which shall be subject to the

approval of two-thirds majority of the attending quorum.

b) Preparing the agenda of the Conference and fixing the time and place of its meeting.

c) Receiving and reviewing proposals from Member States. Important proposals should be presented to the Conference or be referred to one of the specialized Committees.

d) Considering and deciding membership applications for joining the Association and processing them.

e) Setting up Committees from among its members to help in carrying out its functions and specifying their number and terms of reference.

f) Approving and endorsing the Annual Budget and Audit Accounts of the previous year.

g) Appointing the Secretary General of the Association.

h) Appointing an Auditor for the Accounts and specifying his charges.

i) Reviewing the Annual report of the Secretary General.

j) Carrying out the tasks designated by the Conference.

The Council is authorized to take all measures leading to the realization of the Association's goals.

Article 13: MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

a) The Council shall convene at least once a year in one of the Member States alternately in alphabetical order, unless otherwise decided by the Council.

b) The meeting shall be held at the second half of each calendar year. The Secretariat shall extend invitations to the Heads of the Member Assemblies or whoever shall represent them at the meetings for preparation of issues and coordination of stands in International Conferences and Forums.

c) The Chairman of the Council shall have the right to call for an extra-ordinary session if he deems it necessary, or in response to a request from one of the Chairmen of National Councils, and that shall be subject to the approval of two-thirds of the Member States.



Article 14: THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Sana'a the capital of the Republic of Yemen shall be the Association's Headquarters and therein the General Secretariat of the Association shall be situated.

15: APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE TWO ASSISTANT SECRETARIES-GENERAL

a) The Council shall appoint a Secretary General and his two assistants from among experienced people in Parliamentary Affairs and of scientific and administrative caliber for a term of three years renewable for one term. The nomination from a Member State shall be seconded by another Member State. The council shall determine their salary and benefits.

b) The Council, shall appoint two Assistant Secretaries General, one representing the Arab states and the other representing the African states as well as specify the appropriate number of Directors and Staff members; taking into consideration the required experience and representation of Member States.

d) The Secretary General shall appoint the administrative staff required for running the administrative affairs of the Association and the Directors of the Secretariat, within the approved budget.

Article 16: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Secretary General shall prepare the Annual Report in which he presents the Association's activities and achievements as well as the developments connected to the affairs of member Councils at least two months prior to the convening of the council meeting. The Secretary General shall dispatch the Report to members Councils at least one month prior to the Council's meeting. The Report shall be adopted as a basis for general discussion for the Council's meetings.

Article 17: DUTIES OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

The General Secretariat undertakes the following tasks:

a) Organizing and managing continuous communication among Chambers and the Association and other International Bodies and Organizations.

b) Preparing issues to be submitted to the Association's Council and its conferences and preparation of documents and reports needed, in addition to drafting

minutes, accounts of meetings and correspondence.

c) Keeping, organizing and setting up documents and forming a data base concerning the member Councils, which shall be updated periodically by information provided by different Chambers.

d) Handling the financial and administrative affairs of the Association and its organizations.

e) Reporting resolutions and recommendations taken by the conference or the council to the member councils.

f) The Secretariat shall extend invitations to members for council meetings, conferences and any other extra ordinary meetings approved in accordance with the Association's rules.

Article 18: COMMITTEES

The Council shall form from among its members the following Committees:

a) The Legal Committee.

b) The Political Affairs and Parliamentary Relations Committee.

c) The Financial, Economic and Social Committee.

d) It is also permissible to appoint Ad hoc Committees for specific purposes.

Article 19: MEETING OF COMMITTEES

a) In its first meeting each Committee shall select a Chairman and Rapporteur from among its Members.

b) Meeting of the Committees is deemed legal with the attendance of at least half of their members. Resolutions shall be taken by a simple majority of attendants.

c) The Committees shall hold their meetings when the Council convenes.

d) The Committees shall hold meetings in response to invitations forwarded by the Chairman of the Council, and hold their meetings at the General Secretariat.



Article 20: DOCUMENTS OF THE COMMITTEES

The Chairman of the Council through the Secretary General refers proposals, reports and other documents to the Committee Heads, and the Committees shall present the results of their deliberations, through the Secretary-General, to the Chairman of the Council, who shall consequently present them to the Council.

Article 21: ASSOCIATION’S BUDGET

The member Councils, Shoora and Senates contribute to the Association’s budget according to the rules approved by the Association and in proportions determined annually, or according to amendments made thereto.

Article 22: ASSOCIATION’S FISCAL YEAR

The Association shall have an annual budget spanning from the 1st January of each year and ending on the 31st December of the same year (one fiscal year).

Article 23: AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

It is permissible to amend these rules, by a decision of the Council supported by two-thirds majority of its members, pursuant to a written proposal, by one of the member countries with the support of at least another country. The proposal shall be submitted, at least, three months before the holding of the Council meeting.

Article 24: APPLICATION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Provisions of the Association’s statute are applied wherever there is no provision in these Rules, specifically pertaining to the agenda, and methods of deliberations or voting.

Article 25: COUNCILS JURISTIC PERSONALITY

The Chairman of the Council represents the Council’s juristic personality.

Part Two: The Recent ASSECAA Council Meetings

Different council meetings have been organized by the Association at different times in the past. However, we document here the last two meetings of Bahrain and Ethiopia considering that others have been presented in earlier publications.

1- Seventh ASSECAA Conference & Eighth Council Meeting hosted by Bahrain

In response to the kind invitation of H.E Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh, Speaker of the Shoora Council of Kingdom of Bahrain , the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab World (ASSECAA) held its eighth Council meeting and seventh conference in Manama , Kingdom of Bahrain from 28-29 May ,2013.

Speakers of member councils, heads of delegations, and representatives from member councils, Arab Parliament, and Arab Parliamentary Union, attended the conference.

The conference was inaugurated on Tuesday 28 / 5 / 2013 in the presence of a host of government officials , parliamentarians , members of the press and representatives of foreign and Arab diplomatic Corps accredited to the Kingdom of Bahrain.



H.E Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh , Speaker of Shoora council of Bahrain , and new chairman of ASSECAA for the next term , delivered a keynote speech in which he conveyed to the delegates the warm greetings of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Eissa Al-Khalifa, his Royal Highness Prime Minister , and his Royal Highness the Crown Prince and First Deputy of the Prime Minister, all of whom wish that the conference will be a successful event.

He highlighted that the meeting is highly significant, as it seeks to establish partnership and cooperation and enhance understanding and common interests between Africa and Arab world. He touched upon the importance



of peace and security in achieving the objectives of the Association, foremost among them is supporting economic development in the two regions. He explained that Bahrain's experience has proved that regional groupings can help with the maintenance of peace and stability and putting an end to any interventions that aim to destabilize member countries.

He confirmed that the Association can play a significant role in maintaining peace and security in its member states.

For his part, the outgoing chairman of the Association and current President of the Senate of Burundi, H.E Gabriel NTISEZERANA, addressed the conference, and pointed out the significance of the achievements that have been made by the Association since its establishment. He asserted that ASSECAA has been exerting genuine efforts to achieve the aims and objectives for which it was created.

Mr. NTISEZERANA urged member countries to support ASSECAA's activities in order for the association to be a sustainable bridge of economic cooperation between Africa and the Arab world.

The Secretary General of ASSECAA, H.E. Mr. Abdulwasie Yusuf Ali, presented to the council meeting the annual report of the General Secretariat of ASSECAA in which he reviewed the activities and achievements that have so far been made by the General secretariat since 2012. The report also highlighted the General Secretariat's vision and proposals on the Association's activities proposed for next year.

It touched upon several topics that focus on the reactivation of the association in terms of achieving the noble objectives for which it was established. Among such important objectives is the enhancement of socio-economic, and political cooperation between Africa and the Arab world, given that the association is a unique organization bringing together apex legislative institutions that work towards the attainment of member countries' aspirations for achieving socio-economic and cultural development and progress.

The Council then set-up three committees to consider the report of the Secretary General, the topics set forth in the report as well as the activities that are still being undertaken in the current year, 2013, in addition to the Association's conference and council meeting for 2014.

The said committees, which include :

The program committee



The financial committee



The administrative committee



The committees presented their reports to the Council for consideration and approval.

At the conclusion of the morning session, His Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, hosted a reception dinner at Wetz Karlton hotel in Manama, in honor of the honorable delegates to the meeting. Senior officials from Bahraini government, Parliament and Shoura Council, attended the ceremony.



The delegates were granted audience with His Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, the Prime Minister, during which they reviewed a variety of key issues of common interest to both Africa and Arab World in general, and ASSECAA in particular.



On Wednesday, 29 / 5 / 2013, the conference held its seventh meeting which was attended by heads and members of delegations. The meeting considered the reports of the committees constituted to study the Secretary General's report.

After deliberations, the conference approved ASSECAA's budget for 2013, the reports of the administrative committee and the program panel, and the formulation of the final communiqué drafting committee.

Afterwards, the conference resumed its sessions during which heads of delegations delivered their speech that generally reflected members' keenness to revitalize the association in such a way that enables it attains the aims and objectives for which it was established.

Excerpts from Speeches of Heads of Delegations

1-" As you are aware, our Associations comprises two key blocs: Africa and Arab world. ASSECAA was established in 2002, and had its own objectives set. These include the enhancement of economic cooperation, promotion of bicameralism, and reinforcement of common action in terms of socio-economic, political and cultural spheres, in addition to boosting coordination between the two regions with an aim to overcome all obstacles to stability and development, and eliminate the root causes of tensions and disputes".



(H.E Gabriel NTISEZERANA, ASSECAA's outgoing chairman, Speaker of the Senate of Burundi.)

2-"The achievements, which have been made by ASSECAA since its inception, have become a beacon of light for Africa and Arab world. These accomplishments were made thanks to the generous assistance and help from the Almighty God, as well as the concerted efforts exerted by us all. We have taken lots of good steps on various fronts, taking into account the paramount interests of our nations. Again, were it not for our firm belief in our noble goals and strong bonds, such achievements couldn't have been made. We are looking forward to achieving more in terms of legislative, socio-economic and security issues.

ASSECAA is invited today, more than ever before, to adopt a corresponding policy towards common risks, and to press ahead with joint action in such a way as to achieve our nations' aspirations for sustainable development, security, stability and prosperity".



(H.E Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh, Speaker of Shoura Council of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.)

3-"I hail this august gathering. I am both honored and privileged to be in your midst today, in this very breath-taking, and awe-inspiring city of Manama, capital of the brotherly kingdom of Bahrain. As we commence ASSECAA's seventh conference, we shall rub minds and compare notes on the major internal issues of common interest to Africa and Arab world. Our deliberations aim to bolster performance, achieve political, social and cultural security in order to open up new avenues for communication among our legislative and executive apparatuses, in addition to boosting the rhetoric of dialogue among all social segments and governments of member countries in such a manner as to spread security and stability across the region. As we look to achieve such goals, we should assume our responsibilities, as legislative councils, of supporting economic development in member states, revitalizing veritable partnership between the public and private sectors, buttressing women's engagement in development programs, and socio-political life".



(H.E Lt. Colonel Adam Hamid Mussa, Speaker of Council of States of Sudan.)

4-"History testifies that our country, Ethiopia, was not only one of the most ancient countries on the African continent, but also represented a cradle



for universal civilizations and divine religions. Today, Ethiopia has adopted a democratic, federal system of government that glorifies such historical and cultural values that constitute a source of our strength , and a bridge for our eternal relations with our neighbors and other world countries”.



(H.E Kassa Tekelbrahan ,Speaker of the House of Federation of Ethiopia.)

5-”I propose to you a broader framework envisaging certain proposals, atop of which came the opening of new communication channels with several shooras, senates and equivalent councils in Asia and Latin America so that they join in ASSECAA. It also envisions making efforts to convince equivalent councils from Eastern and Central Europe to join the Association, especially those countries with conditions and challenges similar to our region’s, while at the same time seeking to boost partnership , maximize common interests, and mobilize our resources to be able encounter our problems and crises”.



(H.E Dr. Ahmed Fahmi, outgoing Speaker of Shooras Council of Egypt.)

6-”The achievement of security, peace and stability in Africa and Arab world, is one of our key, if not most important, objectives. We, in the Kingdom of Bahrain, are giving a great attention to this topic, and seeking, alongside our brothers and friends, to achieve security and stability, and support peace in the region. This is due to the fact that we, and our GCC brotherly countries, are grappling with unceasing threats to our security , stability, and

national gains. Such threats prompted us to lay out the strategies that enable us confront such challenges. By virtue of God, and thanks to our wise leaders, the GCC has been able to stem these interventions, thus sensitizing us to the role that regional blocs can play in facing the challenges to the security and stability of their member states.”.



(H.E Ali Bin Saleh Al-Saleh, Speaker of Shooras Council of Bahrain.)

7-”Verily, our revered association, which brings together Arab and African parliamentarians, embodies a common , glorious history of struggling against the forces of oppression and colonization. It also symbolizes a deep-seated civilization, especially as the two regions abound with massive and diverse human and natural resources. Therefore, ASSECAA deserves a prestigious status among regional and international parliamentary unions, while its members are worthy of embracing a parliamentary diplomacy within the framework of real democracy and effective partnership, given the major challenges facing the whole world in general, and Arab and African countries in particular”.



(H.E Mohammed Nawasser, Deputy Speaker of Council of the Nation of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria.)

8-”As we come to this highly-endowed country from all ASSECAA’s member states in order to take part in the biggest and most important Afro-Arab gathering, we assert the specialty and peculiarity God has bestowed upon Bahrain. The distinctive



presence of our brothers and friends in this very wonderful country suggests that ASSECAA has become more expressive of the importance of Afro-Arab action that requires concerted efforts to overcome the challenges encountering our Arab and African regions,”



(H.E Abdullah Al-Bar, Deputy Speaker of Shoora Council of Yemen.)

9-Undoubtedly, the best and most successful means of establishing peace and security include respect for international laws, conventions and norms, mutual respect, confidence building, adoption of dialogue, and utilizing peaceful means. In addition, our contemporary world is in a dire need of building robust bridges amongst cultures, shunning violence, achieving further rapport and understanding, boosting the efforts at deepening bonds of cooperation and fraternity among nations, and preserving human dignity,”



(H.E Eissa Rabe'a Al-Kawari, Deputy Speaker of Shoora Council of Qatar.)

10-”Youth and Women in our countries are often embroiled in conflicts, which prompted them to enthusiastically raise their voices in order to take part in searching for solutions to such conflicts resulting from socio-economic, political, and cultural disparities. Therefore, we believe that nothing would change in the world, unless individuals have firm conviction that they are highly responsible for providing solutions to such problems. Hence, it is a must to enable youth and women to engage in resolving the problems disturbing human communities,”



(H.E Asser Kufiri Kabiri, Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Namibia.)

11-”I am very pleased to notice that the embers of the smouldering conflict in Sudan has considerably been smothered. However, there is still need to exert more efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and Syria,”



(H.E Abd Lahmad Ningi, the Majority leader of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.)

12-”Today, I am extremely delighted to participate, for the first time, in ASSECAA’s forum held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. Out of their commitment to the spirit and principles of ASSECAA in the era of globalization, member of Congo’s Senate have deep faith that the future of our countries hinges on regional grouping. Therefore, we need a holistic and non-confessional vision on the issue of finding solutions to the various socio-economic, political, and security challenges facing our countries at this time,”



(H.E Andrea Obami Eito, Speaker of the Senate of Congo Brazzaville.)



13-”The agenda of our meeting has given us the opportunity of appreciating the work done by H.E Abdul Wasea Yusuf Ali, ASSECAA’s Secretary General, and his work team. We, therefore, express our support and encouragement to him. However, I would like to emphasize the importance that our Association supports socio-economic , political and cultural cooperation between Africa and Arab world. The current situation in the world at large and our countries in particular is highly complicated. This , however, should not prevent ASSECAA from carrying out its programs and activities.”



(H.E Martin Fidel Magnaga of the Senate of Gabon.)

The days delegates spent in the wonderful , prosperous city of Manama were very hectic but memorable for the warm welcome and generosity accorded to all attendees, let alone good organization. Indeed, delegates were warmly greeted at Manama airport and were accommodated in very magnificent hotels. The meeting in Manama was a defining point in the history of the events that have been held by the association since its creation. It’s our hope that future meetings will be as successful and instructive as Bahrain’s conference.



Kingdom of Bahrain

2- Eighth Conference, Ninth Council Meeting, and 10th anniversary Celebration of ASSECAA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Highlights on the conference



secretary General receives Ethiopian Prime Minister

The 8th Conference of the Association of Senates Shoora and Equivalent councils in Africa and the Arab World was held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, from the 5th to the 6th of April 2014 at the Headquarters of the Africa Union. The Conference which was organized by the House of the Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was a double barrel occasion as it offered the Association the window to celebrate ten years of its establishment (2004 to 2014).

Delegates from different parts of Africa and the Arab World started arriving from the 3rd of April which offered them the time to make personal tours around the city of Addis Ababa and its environs. Officers and Employees of the General Secretariat also arrived ahead of time to assist the local organizing committee in Ethiopia in ensuring that the meeting was a great success.

The conference drew participants from many senates and Shoora Councils from Africa and the Arab World. It also attracted Ambassadors of different countries resident in Addis Ababa, International and Regional Organization and officials of the Ethiopian government.

The occasion was graced by the presence of **H.E the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ato Hailemariam Dessalegn** who was the Special guest of honour. It was therefore the time to reflect on Afro-Arab economic, political, social and cultural cooperation through the efforts of parliamentarians as embedded in the objectives of the Association.

In a high-pitch welcome address delivered by the Speaker of the House of the Federation of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, **H.E Ato Kassa Terklbrahn** welcomed members with delight to the ever growing capital city of Ethiopia and informed the gathering that the House of the Federation has marched long in its efforts to be part



The Prime Minister's meeting with Speakers of member councils & heads of delegations

and parcel of all endeavors exerted by ASSECAA to consolidate our desire to have our two regions peaceful, stable and to realize fast economic development that brings about development to our peoples.

He further stated that Ethiopia deeply recognizes that ASSECAA as an inter-continental association nowadays is playing a pivotal role in enhancing all-rounded cooperation among countries both in Africa and the Arab World and if we take its current role into serious consideration, we should think of its greater duties of exchange of expertise and unique experiences of each country which are to be accomplished in the coming years.

In another welcome address but this time from the Secretariat of ASSECAA, the Secretary General **Mr. Abdulwasie Yusuf Ali** called back the memories of delegates to the abundant human and natural resources that Africa and Arab World are blessed with and sued for closer cooperation in

all spheres considering that the two regions share similar historical and cultural backgrounds. Africa and Arab countries should therefore stand together and work towards achieving common objectives and interests that will boost their development.

In addition, he stated that the general secretariat has taken formidable steps that will encourage the establishment a confederation of Afro-Arab Chamber of Commerce towards a common market in the two regions and promotion of investment and inter-regional trade. He added that the general secretariat has made attempt in the promotion of establishment of Afro-Arab cultural centre and village that caters for the launch of cultural renaissance in our two regions. The venture will involve huge investment and has therefore been postponed in the mean time. We have however

working hard to establish a virtual cultural centre on our website.



Group Photo featuring Speakers of member councils and delegations to the conference



The Secretary General also advised member countries to collaborate with each other in the



fight against corruption, terrorism, promotion of peace and security and foster food security and employment creation initiatives.

In a prestigious key note address, the special guest of honor and Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia **H.E Ato Hailemariam Dessalegn** expressed thanks to our predecessors who felt the need to bring Arab and African countries together with an aim of consolidating our developmental endeavour. They had foreseen the impact that globalization would have on us and the need to pull together all our resources to realize our mutual interests in the political, economic and social spheres.



He stated that the gathering of law makers from Africa and the Arab World at this time under one shelter would undoubtedly create the necessary opportunity for members to meet and have bilateral discussions on matters of common interests.

Finally he said that the above can only be achieved if we maintain peace and security in our regions, if we judiciously combat terrorism, corruption and establish good governance through conscious

democratic process and respect for human rights.

Many other speeches were delivered by the different Heads of delegations and dignitaries that were present in the meeting and in unison they all agreed that similarities exist in the cultures and histories of Africa and the Arab World and these should count as a plus for our cooperation. We should therefore forget the matters that try to tears



us apart and focus on those things that unite us.

A major highlight of the 10th Anniversary celebration was the presentation of the special anniversary statement that detailed the paths through which the Association has gone through in the stages of its formation and the achievement of its objectives by **Dr. Ahmed Al-Asbahi** followed by the handing over of awards to all member countries of ASSECAA for their encouragement of Afro-Arab cooperation which was performed by the special guest of honor and Prime Minister of Ethiopia. Recipients applauded the general secretariat for the initiatives and encouraged it to do more in recognizing hard work and diligence.

Participants were also treated to sumptuous Ethiopian cuisines and traditional dances at the two dinners that were organized in honor of the delegates. The Conference ended on the 6th of April 2014 with the adoption of the final communiqué of the meeting and delegates' expression of profound gratitude to the Ethiopian government for the very warm reception accorded to them.





Honoring the heads of delegations



The Republic of Yemen



The Republic of Congo



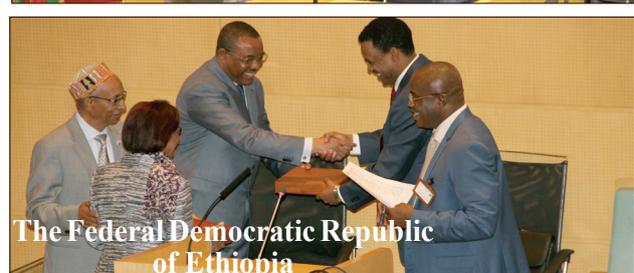
The Kingdom of Morocco



The Republic of Gabon



The Federal Republic of Nigeria



The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



The State of Qatar



Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



The Islamic Republic of Mauritania



The Republic of Sudan

ASSECAA 8th Conference and 10th Anniversary
Reflection on Afro-Arab cooperation



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 5-6, 2014



Part Three

Chapter One - Economic cooperation

Introduction: -

Arab-African relations face many challenges, hindering the possibility of its development, particularly with respect to shifts in the global economy caused by financial crisis that devastated the economies of the powerful countries. These challenges and the necessity to develop the region's economies imposed the need to think hard for more coordination and greater coherence between Arab and African countries for the purpose of making use of those strategic opportunities created by these challenges and work together in the best interests of the two regions, their stability and their economic development.

The Arab and African countries have witnessed during the past decades, serious initiatives to establish economic and political blocs at regional level, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council as well as to initiate the implementation of the Arab Free Trade zone, and at African level, there are regional groupings such as ECOWAS, IGAD and COMESA, Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and other gatherings working to achieve African integration. In spite of all that, Arab and African economic relations are still below the desired level to serve the development's goals for the peoples of the two regions.

The need and importance of strengthening economic relations between the two regions lies in the availability of natural resources in both regions, which can complement each other. For example, there is a food gap in the Arab region which expands every year and may reach as reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation to be 37 billion dollars in 2011. Some countries in the region, especially the Gulf Cooperation Council Members suffer from limited agricultural areas and scarcity of water, while countries like Sudan, Egypt and other African countries with abundant water resources and large tracts of agricultural land, need more coordination and cooperation between Arab and African countries.

The economic integration between the two regions is very important due to its economic dimensions in the interests of the region's peoples, where countries in the region suffer from structural abnormalities, and a shortage of some resources which makes them incapable of achieving development goals such as food

security and reduce trade deficits, it is difficult to overcome all those difficulties without coordination and integration between the countries of these two groups .

Regarding Afro-Arab economic cooperation, we present here two work papers which were introduced during the various activities of the Association, The first work paper was under the title " Economic and Trade Cooperation between Africa and Arab world" and was presented at the Meeting of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which was held in the city of Rabat during the period from 24th to 25th September 2012. The author reviews the trade and economic cooperation between Arabs and Africans based on the orientations of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World.¹

The author argues that after going through the Association's documents, it is evident that efforts have been exerted by ASSECAA to form the structure which should organize a trade and economic cooperation between the association's member countries. It is necessary to determine the main objective of economic cooperation between Arab and African countries by taking advantage of the patterns of cooperation or economic integration existing in various regions of the world².

The second work paper was titled " Impacts of Globalization and the Recent Financial Crisis on Afro-Arab Economies and the Way Out" and it was introduced at the fourth Retreat of the Association, which was held in the city of Addis Ababa, from 24 to 25 September 2011. This paper exposed financial and economic crisis, which is a livelihoods crisis, as seen by many, launched in September 2008 and has become a global crisis of the global economy in developed and developing countries, after that economic trajectories has declined sharply to an unprecedented level in recent decades. Also, unemployment is on the rise, while the rate of poverty is increasing in developing countries³ .

It is expected that, the reader will be more aware of challenges and obstacles hindering the activation of the Afro-Arab economic cooperation and what are the most effective ways to move forward in the formation of a regional economic bloc capable of achieving economic well-being of the two regions and peoples.



1- An Afro-Arab Spring: Socio-political trajectories to stem the Global Financial Crises

The US leading the crises

The American economy is characterized by the inexhaustible capacity of its private sector to innovate, its seemingly desire to reinvent itself, that's why the US still leads the world, and reaps the material rewards of that leadership.

Capitalism needs to be improved; the crisis that US markets suffer may lead to the depression of the 1930s. Many reports about the current global credit crisis and its large, institutional victims have compared it to a



hurricane. (Wharton, 2008) Despite rescues that may change the world of finance, the consequences of this crisis will not disappear soon.

Almost two years after problems in the U.S. mortgage market which caused the biggest financial crisis since the Great Depression, global financial markets remain unsettled, and prospects for capital flows to the developing world are weak. The intensification of the financial crisis in September 2008 dramatically altered the world economic outlook. (World Bank, 2009).

How bad is the global financial crisis?

Based on risky subprime home loans and the assumption that housing prices would never decline, the Wall Street experts engineered the credit crisis with opaque securities which were not as expected by these experts and caused bankruptcies and then the rescues. The liquidity capacity of these markets was overwhelmed. (Wharton, 2008).

The rapid increase in precautionary saving led to a sharp decline in global investment, production, trade, and GDF during the fourth quarter of 2008, a trend that continued in the first quarter of 2009.

This suddenly very weak international environment accelerated the fall in commodity prices.²

In the absence of public-sector assistance, the massive

losses suffered by investment banks and other institutions would have forced commercial banks to sharply reduce lending—forcing firms to cut back on investment and production even more forcefully. Instead, bank lending continued to grow, although much less rapidly than in the past.³

The drop in economic activity, combined with much weaker capital flows to developing countries, is placing a large number of low- and middle-income countries under serious financial strain. Many countries are having difficulty generating sufficient foreign currency from exports or borrowing to cover import demand.⁴

While some indicators that point to the beginnings of a recovery of the global economy, it remains highly uncertain. Indeed, many countries are facing growing pressure on their currencies and banking sectors. Already several high- and middle-income developing countries have entered into special borrowing agreements with the IMF to prevent deteriorating external and fiscal positions from getting out of hand.

Capitalism's challenges:

The world of derivatives:

The subprime crisis is the most visible of economic derivatives that have spun out of control with homes losing their values at unprecedented rate in recent memory. According to the economist, derivatives are financial assets that derive their value from other assets such as an option to buy a share is derived from the share. Financial regulation bodies blame the growing use of derivatives for increasing volatility in asset prices, and for being a source of danger to their users.

As the housing cost rise and homeowners fell behind on payments- swaps and mortgage securities tied to these payments lost value, but it was unclear by how much. Lenders, worried about unknown liabilities on borrower's books, became reluctant to lend, causing the credit crisis. The market needs transparency and a better way to establish values as conditions change. That may be accomplished if the current over-the-counter trading system were replaced with a centralized exchange and a greater standardization among these products.⁶

Marxian critique of capitalism: Marx argued that this alienation of human work (and resulting commodity fetishism) is precisely the defining feature of capitalism. Prior to capitalism, markets existed in Europe where producers and merchants bought and sold commodities. According to Marx, a capitalist mode of production developed in Europe when labor itself became a commodity. True, the capitalist mode of production is capable of tremendous growth because the capitalist can, and has an incentive to, reinvest profits in new technologies and hence the capitalist class to be the most revolutionary in history. But he also argued that capitalism was prone to periodic crises over



time, capitalists would invest more and more in new technologies, and less and less in labor.

Since Marx believed that surplus value appropriated from labor is the source of profits, he concluded that the rate of profit would fall even as the economy grew. When the rate of profit falls below a certain point, the result would be a recession or depression in which certain sectors of the economy would collapse.⁷

Financial shenanigans - greedy capitalism: The New York Times columnist, Paul Krugman, recently told Fortune large parts of the financial system will have to be reinvented. Nevertheless, so much of the financial system is broken that the question is where to even start? This kind of badback-passing went all the way to the top of some firms, many with familiar names. The pressure to «make money» was too much. The money was just too good. The bonuses were too sweet. Besides, there is always the old excuse that «everybody does it this way.» Yet it was not for nothing that the ancients defined greed as a deadly sin. Can we as a society really «regulate» our way out of that situation or is there a systemic problem



with deeper roots?»

Globalization, Doha and world trade: (The Economist, 2008)

Doha failure:

During a summer when the economic shadows darkened so dramatically, few paid attention to the collapse—yet again—of the Doha round of global trade talks. Champions of liberal trade, wrung their hands, but no one else cared much. The failure in Geneva, where the WTO is based, seemed something of a sideshow. In a global survey of business executives, conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit, over half the respondents regarded the Doha round as minimally or not at all important, and only 10% thought it very important. One in ten saw protectionism as the biggest threat to the world economy, but far more were worried about recession, inflation, and the financial crisis.

The global recession has deepened:

The tight links between global trade in durable, capital, and high-tech goods and the closely entwined investment spending that supports economic activity in both high-income and developing countries can be detected in the vicious circle that now operates between the financial and real sectors of the global economy. The difficulty of obtaining capital, together with uncertainty about future demand, has delayed investments and caused a collapse in demand for durable goods, resulting in a sharp contraction in the production of and global trade in manufactured goods.⁹

Private capital flows are shrinking at an unprecedented rate:

There was virtually no issuance between mid-September and mid-December 2008, in the wake of the collapse of Lehman Brothers. Local stock markets, meanwhile, experienced the worst yearly decline in recent history, as the MSCI Emerging Market Index sank 55% during the year, erasing some \$17 trillion in market valuation. Investors' flight from perceived danger contributed

to the sharp drop in capital flows to the developing countries, a trend that is very likely to persist through the end of 2009. Although interest-rate spreads in developing countries have not widened by as much as in past crises, the decline in private capital flows to developing countries is expected to set a record.

The agreement by the G-20 to augment the lending capacity of the IMF and multilateral development banks will help high-income emerging-market and middle-income countries meet their external financing needs. However, little of such financing can be made available to low-income countries that have limited borrowing capacity, whose ability to meet their external financing needs will depend largely on the extent to which firms can rollover their maturing debt.¹¹

Could the crises forge a New Financial Order :

As the government wrestles with the credit crisis, economists and finance experts are starting to make



some predictions. Individuals and businesses will have a harder time getting loans in coming years, but also may be less eager to take on debt. There will be more financial regulation or better regulation, but definitely not less regulation.¹²

A system needs to be designed where participants cannot threaten the safety of the economy - this crisis is bad enough that it has rung some alarm bells, and there's a better chance of doing something right... than there has been for decades. The most obvious change in the financial markets is the government's new role as a major owner of the nation's banks. The swaps market, often involving individually tailored contracts, has virtually no regulation. All securities that rise or fall according to the health of an underlying company should be treated the same. If it has payouts the same as equity but we call it a swap, it is probably equity.¹³

How does the Afro-Arab world deal with the crises?

Is China the Afro-Arab Region's answer:

With the spectacular Olympic Games held recently and the collapse of the WTO talks, due to its defiance of Western positions, China has projected itself into the world stage for a second time; since it acquired the status of a nuclear power. Its influence on the Afro-Arab Region has also been steadily growing. Sino-Afro-Arab trade has increased rapidly, rising to a towering \$75 billion last year. Its economic might and tolerance of abuses by the Afro-Arab Region politics has contributed to Beijing's highly successful diplomatic move in The Afro-Arab Region. The complexities involved and the pains that await The Afro-Arab Region countries are reflected by the increasing numbers of disputes referred to WTO; that included allegations of contravention of the national treatment provision of GATT - Article III.¹⁴

Hence, not surprisingly, China has become the voices for the poor nations and the most audacious financier. The China Exim bank has facilitated loans to the tune \$10 billion to the Afro-Arab Region, albeit, on more commercial terms. While well managed economies have earned IMF's blessing to take-on more debt even on commercial terms, badly managed economies have moved on to China, which is prepared to ignore such conditionalities.¹⁵ Indeed, 2006 was billed as «The Year of Africa» in China that culminated with the China-Africa summit focused on securing the region's natural resources for its rapidly growing economy, market expansion for its cheap goods and gaining international political legitimacy with almost all African countries supporting Chinese positions on literally all issues in the UN General Assembly. Beijing has come up with the answers and has moved in rapidly with the necessary resources for infrastructure development that have so far been the subject of lengthy negotiations, many times at the cost of project redundancy, which hitherto marked Afro-Arab relations with global funders. (The Economist May 17th 2007)

There is a reasonable chance that Afro-Arab world may survive the crisis: The Afro-Arab Region:

Many countries have been helped by better macro-economic management and big inflows of Western aid, investment and debt relief—as well as by more unquantifiable investments from Asia, particularly China, and the Middle East. Moreover, there is a reasonable chance that the Afro-Arab Region may survive the world financial crisis less bruised and battered than some other parts of the world. The very factors that damaged the continent in the past may now be working in its favor. Take the banking sector. Business persons and budding entrepreneurs have always moaned about the excessive regulations and conservatism of the Afro-Arab Region banks. Control on foreign exchange often prevent them raising more money by investing in exciting financial instruments in the West. Foreign ownership of banks is unusually limited (to less than 5% in Nigeria and South Africa).

Now, however, this very de-linkage from the Western financial system has turned out to be the Afro-Arab Region's advantage. Its banks have almost no exposure to the subprime market causing such havoc elsewhere in the world. No one doubts that the Afro-Arab Region will feel the effects of the crisis eventually. As world trade contracts, so will the demand for the Afro-Arab Region's oil and minerals, the main commodities behind its current boom.¹⁶

Building confidence and strengthening policy coordination for recovery:

Among government officials, policy makers, and key market observers, calls to restore confidence in the global financial system have become an international mantra. Governments have, by and large, «walked their talk» through a furious combination of unilateral and multilateral actions, drawing on a broad range of conventional and unconventional monetary policy, fiscal stimulus, and government guarantee programs to shore up the banking industry. However, the policy agenda for stabilizing financial markets and for global economic recovery is broad and complex, and major challenges remain.

Governments willingness to coordinate their policies can help re-establish confidence by ruling out beggar-thy-neighbor responses to the crisis. In the years leading up to the crisis, a defining feature of global finance in developed countries was the escalating integration of the household sector into capital markets. Excessive credit creation, made possible through the technology of asset securitization, yoked consumer spending to the expansion and profitability of the banking industry, with both serving as engines of economic growth.¹⁷

The Arab oil money and potential for investing them in Africa:

Corruption in the Afro-Arab Region; attempts to repatriate laundered assets by deposed Arab regimes



have «highlighted the inadequacy of current international efforts against corruption». The article cites the 2005 United Nations Convention against Corruption as a potential framework for such action. Other obstacles to repatriating funds will remain, including removing corrupt regimes and establishing evidence for illicitly obtaining state funds. A World Bank statistic in the piece estimates that while corrupt regimes steal \$20-\$40 billion from developing countries each year, only \$5 billion has been returned over the past 15 years. (Stuart Levey, 2011 Size of Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWF) in the Arab Region: Assets under management of SWFs increased to \$4.7 trillion in July 2011, increase of \$700 billion from 1 year ago.¹⁹ There was an additional \$6.8 trillion held in other sovereign investment vehicles, such as pension reserve funds, development funds and state-owned corporations' funds and \$7.7 trillion in other official foreign exchange reserves. Countries with SWFs funded by commodities' exports, primarily oil totaled and gas

of automatic stabilizers, will further increase debt ratios, perhaps doubling them in some countries if the downturn turns out to be as severe as is now envisaged. Government commitments will have to be financed, if not through taxation, then through the issuance of debt obligations. As the fiscal implications of such commitments are factored in, interest-rate expectations will be adjusted upward, raising the cost of capital for all borrowers, including those in developing countries.

State corporate plans:

Attempts that have been initiated across the Afro-Arab Region in response to the elements of the Washington Consensus that envisaged bringing about a total reversal in the mode of socio-economic management from a centrally planned economy to that of a free-market competitive economy have failed. Nevertheless, so far, entrepreneurial sector participation in national investment has not been as significant as expected due to



exports, \$2.7 trillion at the end of 2010. Non-commodity SWFs totaled \$1.5 trillion. Non-commodity SWFs are typically funded by transfer of assets from official foreign exchange reserves, and in some cases from government budget surpluses and privatization revenue. According to the SWF Institute, most oil producing nations in the gulf have a higher SWF to Foreign Exchange Ratio. The statistics here are based on IMF data - when available; Otherwise, CIA data are indicated.

Governments must re-establish fiscal sustainability:

Recent measures by central banks in the developed nations to purchase private and government debt as a way of unfreezing credit markets have led to a significant expansion of their balance sheets and rapid growth of the monetary base. This has replaced, to a large extent, the accumulation of foreign exchange reserves by other central banks as the main engine of global liquidity. Rising public debt levels and the rampant expansion of central banks' balance sheets will pose considerable challenges to economic stability once the recovery gets under way.

Discretionary fiscal stimulus, as well as the operation

corruption-driven undefined core business of the state, lack of competent economic management and managed restructuring of the state and political stability²⁰. This has resulted in inefficient public services and infrastructure and under capacity for policy development and coordination.

Democratic regime change and institutions:

Institutionalization of rules:

The consolidation of democracy involves the institutionalization of rules for the political game that frilly guarantee political participation and political competition, (O'Donnell, G and Schmitter, P., 1986) The approach builds on the observation that democracy requires the permanent construction of an array of countervailing political institutions within both state and society. Elections, which empower ordinary citizens to choose among contestants for top political office, clearly meet its dual standard.

- Impartial and independent electoral bodies are vital to cement good governance.



- The Bill of Rights must be firmly entrenched in the Constitution.

- The Judiciary is said to be the last hope against tyranny. Hence, the judiciary must be independent of the Legislature and Executive, in theory and practice.

- Political parties are vehicles through which democracy is practiced. In readopting the multi-party pluralist system, protesters have vowed against the one party system and underscored that democracy is best practiced where power is not concentrated in the ruling party or under the one-party state. Hence, it is necessary to evolve the political culture required by rules and institutions of democracy in the Afro-Arab world.

Political rules and institutions:

Democracy will survive as long as multiparty elections continue to be held in which voters are free to exercise meaningful choices. One should not underestimate the difficulty of democratic consolidation. So far, only a few have satisfied even the most minimal conditions set by the two turnover test. Where the influence of big men continues to loom large over electoral and other political processes, it is rarely clear whether the re-election of an incumbent constitutes the extension of a leader's mandate or the resignation of the electorate to an inevitable dominance. For these reasons, the meaning of Africa's second and third elections will necessarily be murkier than the watershed contests of the early 1990s. When all is said and done, however, the fact that intense political struggles are being waged is proof positive that the institution of elections is beginning to matter to confront head on fake elections, greed and corruption, the impact of the Washington Consensus and exporting terror. The central hypothesis is therefore that The relative strength of political organizations determines the rules of the political game that are installed. Democratization requires a plural set of political organizations which promote and protect rules of peaceful political participation and competition. Together, democratic institutions (plural organizations plus rules of accountability) ensure control of the state executive.

All told, it is people, not only the temperamental young and labor, but women, mothers, girls; who had never seen a protest, that were pouring into the streets. Amal Sharaf, a 36-year-old mother, handed out fliers in the days leading up to the first major protests on Jan. 25, when people filled Tahrir Square (Newsweek, 2011) and history changed its course not only in the Middle East but elsewhere where tyranny prevails, especially in Africa.

International cooperation:

With so much at stake, there is an urgent need for the international financial community to take a hard look at recent developments, assess the vulnerabilities and risks that are the unintended products of current policy

interventions and market changes, and evaluate the likely effects of those interventions and changes on development finance. Most of the available resources to be provided by IMF are likely to be devoted to high-income emerging markets. In this climate, as stated in the G20 meeting in London, low-income countries that are already under strain deserve special attention.

That sobering fact should reinforce the importance of broad international agreement to mobilize the necessary resources to achieve the MDGs. After several decades of debt rescheduling through the mechanisms of the Paris Club, the sequence of official debt relief programs initiated under the HIPC initiative of 1996 (The HIPC Initiative was initiated by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in 1996, following extensive lobbying by NGOs and other bodies.

It provides debt relief and low-interest loans to cancel or reduce external debt repayments to sustainable levels) and culminating in the launch of the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative stand out as a remarkable exercise of multilateralism and sound economic sense.

With fewer resources now available in low-income countries to service external debt, it is important to build on them.

BT Costantinos, PhD Professor of Public Policy, School of Graduate Studies, Department of Public Management and Policy, College of Management, Information and Economic Sciences, Addis Ababa University Conference on Impacts of Globalization and Recent Financial Crisis on Afro-Arab Economies and the Way Outs At the fourth Retreat of ASSECAA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 24-25 Sept, 2011

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1 Dr. Jafar Al-Sayegh, Economic Advisor to the Shura Council of Kingdom of Bahrain, work paper on Afro-Arab Economic Cooperation presented at the 3rd Meeting of Chambers of Commerce & Industry in Africa and the Arab World in Rabat from 29 to 30th of November 2012.

2 Dr.Sami Mohammed Al-Siyaghi, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Director, Sana'a University, presented a work paper on Economic and trade cooperation between Africa and the Arab world in Rabat in November 2012.

3 BT Costantinos, Professor of Public Policy, University of Addis Ababa, work paper on Impacts of Globalization and Recent Financial Crisis on Afro-Arab Economies and the Way Outs 2011.

2 By end-May 2009, oil prices were down 60% from their peak and non-oil commodity prices, including internationally traded food commodities, were down 35%. Lower food and fuel prices have cushioned the poverty impact of reduced activity to a degree and helped to reduce the pressure on the current accounts of oil-importing developing countries, even as they reduced surpluses among developing oil-exporters by as much as 17% of GDP.

3 These policy measures have not been costless. Fiscal balances in 2009 are expected to deteriorate by about 3% of GDP in high-income countries, and by about 4.4% of GDP in developing countries.

Longer term, increased high-income country indebtedness may raise borrowing costs, potentially crowding out developing-country private and public-sector borrowers.

4 Since September 2008, 16 countries have consumed 20% or more of their foreign reserves and the current stock of reserves covers less than 4 months of imports in 18 countries. The challenges of widening current-account deficits and deteriorating fiscal positions are most acute in the Europe and Central Asia region." If as appears likely, financing is not fully forthcoming for these economies, heavy compression of domestic demand and exchange-rate

5 Like auto insurance, the buyer makes regular payments to the seller, which pays a claim if a given event occurs, like a specific company defaults on its debt payments or goes bankrupt. A buyer that has lent the company money, or a business awaiting payment from that company, can use a credit default swap to buy coverage in case the company fails to meet its obligations. You probably do want some capital requirements.

6 «The problem is we have no idea how large the [swap] market is, and there's no oversight of it. Would it be so terrible to have these instruments traded through organised exchanges? While there is some talk of doing this, it is not clear whether the marketplace will do it on its own or needs to be prodded by regulators. When things become commoditised they tend to gravitate towards a central trading place, and credit derivatives are becoming commodities. If the government facilitates that [move to exchange-based trading], it is great. Either way, it is likely these instruments will not continue to create the hazards that they have recently, because investors and issuers who were burned will be more careful. Indeed, the business world and financial markets are likely to become considerably more conservative and cautious. I daresay that for the next few years, we are not going to have excesses in the financial markets - the markets are going to repeat the same follies that we have had in the last few years. Ibid. Wharton 2008



7 Marx believed that this cycle of growth, collapse, and growth would be punctuated by increasingly severe crises. Moreover, he believed that the long-term consequence of this process was necessarily the enrichment and empowerment of the capitalist class and the impoverishment of the proletariat. He believed that were the proletariat to seize the means of production, they would encourage social relations that would benefit everyone equally, and a system of production less vulnerable to periodic crises. Marx thought that peaceful negotiation of this problem was impracticable, and that a massive, well-organized and violent revolution would in general be required, because the ruling class would not give up power without violence.

8 including Paul Krugman, a professor at Princeton and prominent New York Times columnist, Alan Blinder of Princeton and Larry Summers, a Harvard economist and former treasury secretary.

9 World industrial production declined by an unprecedented 5% in the fourth quarter of 2008 (or 21% at an annualized rate). Output continued to decline in the first quarter of 2009, reducing the level of industrial production in high-income countries by 17.3% in March 2009, relative to its level a year before, and in developing countries by 2.3% relative to March 2008.⁷ GDP growth in developing countries is projected to slow sharply but remain positive in 2009, moving from 5.9% to 1.2%. Nevertheless, developing countries, as a whole will outperform by a sizeable margin high-income countries, whose aggregate GDP is projected to fall 4.5% in 2009.¹⁰ Unlike portfolio equity and bond investments, FDI decisions are made with long-term horizons in view. They express the intention to build productive manufacturing facilities, exploit natural resources, or diversify export bases. Thus, FDI flows are less likely to be liquidated or reversed in times of crisis.

11 Some 700 corporations based in developing countries issued international bonds during the boom years of 2002-07, and almost 3,000 borrowed in the international syndicated bank loan market. Those corporations account for the bulk of outstanding short-term external debt and around three-quarters of the medium- and long-term private debt coming due in 2009.

12 The US Economic Crisis; 10 Proposals, Dr. Johan Galtung. Posted by Czelizer on September 27, 2008 at 11:06am in Policy Issues Related to Peace. Conflict and Development accessed Oct. 2008.

13 Some funds hedged the risks inherent in such trading, even while swimming in the same waters as those that drowned. Goldman Sachs, for instance, is still standing because it had one division that shorted the market for securitized mortgage bonds, specifically to offset the other Goldman Sachs / divisions that bought them.

14 Threats, deception and manipulation are the underhand negotiating tactics used by rich countries such as in the current round of global trade talks», warns Action Aid in a new report, 'The Doha Deception Round: How the US and EU cheated developing countries'. «Power politics, exclusivemeetings,

diplomatic arm-twisting, and 'take-it-or-leave-it' ultimatums would have led to a final trade deal that could have a devastating impact on millions of people worldwide. Hardball tactics are undermining the very goal of the current trade talks which is supposed to have the interests of poverty and development».

15 The Wall Street Journal, March 30th, 2005.

16 Ibid. World Bank. (2009) Rapid progress on these fronts will make it easier for low-income countries to cope with the crisis. Already under severe strain, low-income countries face increasingly grave economic prospects if the dramatic deterioration in their capital inflows from exports, remittances, and foreign direct investment (FDI) is not reversed in 2010.

17 As household ownership of equities and bonds increased, households' wealth and income became more closely linked to capital markets, forging closer linkages between the real economy and financial markets—and increasing the likelihood of political intervention when trouble appears.

18 Ibid. World Bank, (2009) but each country will be reluctant to undertake it on the necessary scale because some of the expansionary effects will spill over to other countries, and because any country that acts alone—even the United States—may reasonably fear that increases in government debt will cause investors to lose confidence in its fiscal sustainability and so will draw financing. Both of these constraints will be lessened by an international commitment to coordinate a fiscal expansion globally.

19 Ibid, World Bank. (2009) although changes in national regulations have begun to improve transparency and thwart excessive risk taking, today's highly integrated financial markets necessitate close coordination among authorities in order to bolster market confidence and avoid regulatory arbitrage. The international spillovers of the crisis in the financial area presently provide a powerful incentive for harmonization, because concerns over stability temporarily outweigh the urge to seek advantages for the «home team.»

20 privatizing and commercializing activities, state corporate plans and performance management, fiscal sustainability requirements, measures to promote entrepreneurship including enterprise-level support and sound information systems on markets, and technology transfer and adaptation.

This work paper was prepared by BT Costantinos, PhD, Professor of Public Policy, School of Graduate Studies, Department of Public Management and Policy, College of Management, Information and Economic Sciences, Addis Ababa University in Conference under the theme ((Impacts of Globalization and Recent Financial Crisis on Afro-Arab Economies and the Way Outs)), at the 4th Retreat of ASSECAA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 24-25 Sept, 2011.



2- «Economic and trade cooperation between Africa and the Arab world, The challenges and prospects for building the future»

Historical overview:

The 1950s of the past century ushered in a new era of building strategic Afro-Arab relations based on the struggle for getting rid of colonization as well as on the attempts at progress and development away from dependence on colonials. Since then, relations between the two sides have seen multiple historic changes marked by political coordination as well as large-scale economic cooperation and support in the wake of the emergence of liberation and independence movements in Africa.

These also include the emergence of the Non-Aligned Movement, a specific stance on the Palestinian question and the 1967 and 1973 wars, and coordination through the Organization of African Unity and the Arab League. They also involve resolutions from the Arab summit conference held in Algeria back in 1973 according to which numerous financial institutions were founded to support the Afro-Arab cooperation, in addition to the first Afro-Arab summit held in Cairo in 1977ⁱ.

With the beginning of the nineties and under the new uni-polar world order and the wave of globalization that

question the goals of cooperation and its credibility as well as the enthusiasm of Arabs to cooperate with African countries in the first place.

Those circumstances, spanning the period from the end of the seventies to the end of the nineties, resulted in the faltering of the march of Afro-Arab cooperation and reflected negatively on the regularity of the meetings of cooperation organs and mechanisms. The Standing Committee on cooperation met at the last ordinary session in 1989, but did not hold any meetings during the nineties. During that period, many Arab studies on the reasons for the decline in the level of collective relations between the two parties were conducted. Most of these studies found that the two sides have a problem relating to the absence of a strategic vision on the planning of their relations.

At the start of the 21st century, the Afro-Arab relations saw positive developments that bring hope into the future of Arab-African cooperation in general, something strongly and clearly put forward by the Arab summit held in Amman in March 2001. Also, the Standing Committee on the Afro-Arab Cooperation held its twelfth session in Algeria in April of the same year. This was followed by some developments in terms of reviving Afro-Arab cooperation, most prominent of which was the holding of the second Afro-Arab Summit in Sirte, Libya on October 10, 2010, which came up with a number of resolutions and recommendations on Afro-



have swept many of the foundations of international relations at both official and unofficial levels which was associated with the growth of the role played by the European and American donors in the field of loans, grants and aid, in addition to the roles of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in terms of supporting the economies of many African countries. The period saw the formation of effective frameworks for the formulation of Africa's relations with the new world order besides the negative impact of those conditions on the volume of Arab aid to African countries when compared to the other flows of international aid to the continent. This prompted many of these countries to

Arab cooperationⁱⁱ.

Section 1: Challenges facing Afro-Arab cooperation

«Ingredients of and constraints on environment»

First, obstacles arising from the environment, now we shift to another point to shed light on some of the most particular ingredients that characterize the economies of Arab and African countries. Arab and African countries are unable to individually undertake modern projects at the technical, economic and technological levels for the following reasonsⁱⁱⁱ:



-Weak domestic markets because of low per capita income and low purchasing power, in addition to the low level of services, especially in Africa.

-Arab and African countries are unable to individually undertake modern projects at the technical, economic and technological levels for the following reasons:

- 1-These projects need large capitals .
- 2-Narrow scope of local markets .
- 3-Scarcity of qualified scientific and technical personnel required for their establishment.

-Weak competitive and negotiating position of the Arab and African countries in the field of multilateral economic transactions. The reason lies in the dependence of exports on raw materials (agriculture - mining, etc.), which are characterized by relatively inelastic demand.

-Africa in particular suffers from lack of infrastructure in many areas, which makes it difficult to transport and ship goods due to high costs. For example, a special United Nations report confirmed that an Infrastructure network in Africa is much more important to remove the restrictions on trade.

-Large-scale dependence of Arab economy on the

advancements since the beginning of the sixties of the last century and its institutional inauguration at the first Afro-Arab Summit conference in 1977. However, it was not long before this cooperation saw a remarkable decline due to lots of rifts caused by the complex political circumstances experienced by the Arab region in particular.

With the beginning of the nineties and in light of the crucial changes that hit the world order , coupled with the increased role of aid policy that served as an influential instrument in shaping up developing countries' relations with major powers and international donors, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, voices started resounding in the African context, wondering about the feasibility of talks about the strengthening of Afro-Arab cooperation in light of relative calculations as to the size of Arab assistance to Africa compared to that provided by the international community . This is not to mention the extent of cooperation competition with the nature of systemic development relations that link African countries to major world Powers -The United States of America - China - France – and Great Britain.

Though there have been talks about the necessity to revive the Afro-Arab cooperation since the holding of the second -Afro Arab Summit in Sirte, Libya in October



outside (Asia, Europe and the U.S. in particular), besides its suffering from entrenched food gap whose size reached about 12.1 billion U.S. Dollars in 1996.

-Most of Arab economies suffer from the problem of unemployment and distorted market of supply and demand for labor.

Section 2: Constraints arising from direct policies:

It is known that the Afro-Arab economic and developmental cooperation had achieved great

2010, there have already been many serious obstacles to this cooperation. This is contrary to what is happening in many international cooperation frameworks forged by many world political rivals that have often been keen to keep the door open to any possibility of communication and rapport as a prelude to finding solutions to strife and political conflicts, so we will shed light on some prominent political, economic and technical obstacles as follows ^{iv} :-

- The political systems (mainly the executive powers)



on both sides are not keen to reactivate the role of their legislatures in strengthening their relations through competent institutions. Added to this is the continued adoption of most issues relevant to these relations away from those institutions.

- The reluctance of political regimes on both sides, represented by their competent organs, to market the concept and content of cooperation among them at the grassroots levels in order to create public opinion that understands and supports any steps that might be taken in the direction of strengthening the bonds of cooperation between the parties involved, not to mention the discouragement by these regimes of any effective contribution from national capitals.

-Inability of political systems, represented by their competent authorities, to formulate appropriate operational frameworks to put into practice the recommendations and decisions from the institutions and committees of joint cooperation, including the joint initiatives and efforts made by the private sector, whether this incapability results from lack of technical competence and congenial mechanisms or from the weakness or lack of political will.

- Technical and economic constraints:

-Low level of trade exchange between Arab and African countries in general.

- Low level of direct Arab investment in both public and

on the continent, while some Arabs believe that this should be entrusted to the General Secretariat of the Arab League.

-The Arab aid policy didn't contain a strategic vision for strengthening the role of the private sector in Africa and the Arab world by enabling it to take advantage of the assistance allocated for development. Aid has often been used for the purchase of technological equipment and technical devices from developed countries through multinational companies. This increased dependence on developed countries against the will of both Arab and African countries. It also deprived the Afro-Arab private sectors from the opportunity of practicing such activities and making use of their own revenues.

-There emerged some criticism from some Africans of the nature and role of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, as they saw that it was more appropriate to deposit the Arab funds allocated for the development of Africa at the African Development Bank in Abidjan in order to conveniently manage these financial resources. In contrast, some Arabs see the need to entrust the management of those financial resources to Arab institutions, as those resources originally came from Arab, not African countries such as the GCC states.

-Lack of clarity regarding the nature of legislation, incentives and investment guarantees, particularly in African countries.

-Lack of data and information on investment



private sectors in Africa.

-The differences over the management of Arab financial aid offered to Africa, as some Africans raise questions on the need to involve the African side in the management of private Arab funding agencies supporting development

opportunities in Africa.

- The difficulty of monetary and fiscal transfers across some African countries, and lack of constant, reassuring financial and economic policies, in addition to political instability.



-Lack of regular and institutional communication channels between the components of the Afro-Arab private sector.

Section 3 : Prospects for the development of Afro-Arab trade and economic cooperation «Priorities and Opportunities»

Our presentation will attempt at this point to indicate the steps that should be taken by the political frameworks responsible for paving the way for strengthening Afro-Arab economic and trade cooperation. It would then try to shed light on the priorities and opportunities of enhancing such cooperation, with reference to some of the priorities proposed for adoption by the private sector, as well as the explanation of some successful experiences related to overcoming some of the obstacles to cooperation in general.

First: The role of public policy-makers: «The duties and visions of the political framework»

There is no doubt that the political framework within which works the component of Arab-African economic and trade cooperation, represented by decision-makers in the countries involved, are by and large responsible for considering the obstacles to cooperation and for trying to develop solutions necessary to overcome them. It can be noted initially that Arabs have recently felt the importance of restoring momentum to the process of Afro-Arab cooperation. In its final communiqué, the Arab summit held in Amman in March 2001 called for Arab leaders to discuss the various aspects of Arab-African cooperation and emphasized the importance of pursuing the efforts aimed at strengthening this cooperation and removing the obstacles to the meetings of its organs as well as the implementation of its joint programs.

Then came the resolutions of the Standing Committee on the Afro-Arab Cooperation, which were issued at its fourteenth session held in Cairo in March 2010, to confirm the importance of continuing political and security cooperation between the two sides, reactivating its activities between the two organizations (the Arab League and the African Union), and revitalizing the proposed joint programs, including by emphasizing the importance of rotating the joint ministerial meeting on agricultural development and food security, which was held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt, from February 14 to 16, 2010.

After that, the second Afro-Arab Summit, was held in Libya in October 2010, 33 years after the first summit held in Cairo in 1977, stressed that there is a serious intention on both sides to bring back cooperation between them to its halcyon following its actual launch at Cairo summit. During that summit, a draft Strategy for Afro-Arab Partnership was presented and focused on four priority areas, namely: The political aspect, peace and security, enhancement of investment and trade, agriculture and food security, and social and cultural

cooperation^v.

Second: Areas of strengthening cooperation and opportunities:

In the elimination of these obstacles that we have mentioned in the previous section, there arises a central question on the issue of Arab-African cooperation: Is it possible to take short-term practical steps that can



stimulate cooperation at present and then prepare it for attaining promising breakthroughs in the future? The answer to this question is yes, as we can talk about many practical steps that can be taken in order to enhance cooperation as follows^{vi}:

A)Commerce :

1 – Reducing customs restrictions by the two sides in order to encourage trade, while at the same time taking alternative measures to deal with the effects of such restrictions on the parties involved.

2 - Boosting technical cooperation programs on trade policies in order to enable the Arab and African institutions to discuss on a regular basis the reforms that have been implemented, and re-examine their potential impacts on commercial arrangements.

3–Taking interest in providing business information by governments and the private sector by creating a network for Arab-African Information in cooperation with some international institutions.

4–Finding ways to finance trade between the two sides by the establishment of an Arab-African Foundation for funding, increasing cooperation among central banks, and establishing strong, joint financial institutions to ensure investments and encouraging the establishment of joint ventures, especially in agriculture and industry, as the two sides have potentials to do this.

5-Finalizing a study on the establishment of a preferential trade zone in the Arab and African countries and indigenizing some consumer industries depending on raw materials available in some African and Arab countries, which can be exported both within and outside the two regions.

6- Working hardy and systematically on studying the



most effective economic and scientific approaches to establish a pattern of effective Arab-African cooperation or regional integration on par with similar models, such as the Andean in Latin America and the ASEAN in Asia, which are based on the perspective of «integration for development».

B) Tourism:

Many studies and primary statistics confirm that tourism is one of the promising sectors in the framework of the Arab-African cooperation. There is no doubt that there are great potentials to promote Arab tourism in Africa. It has recently been observed that there is an increase in the volume of tourism between Arab and African countries as a result of the US-European intransigence to grant tourist visas to Arabs and Africans in the wake of September 11 events, which diverted a large number of tourists to Arab and African countries.

The juxtaposition of the two regions allows for great prospects for the development of tourism between them. Some Arab investors have already begun preliminary, serious attempts at the establishment of tourist projects in Africa, particularly in the Southern African region.

It is known in general that tourism in Africa is growing relatively reasonably, especially in South Africa, which has become a distinctive tourist attraction. The number of tourists coming to Africa is estimated at about 18 million a year. The rate of tourism in Africa has evolved reasonably, but the continent's share of international tourism revenues generally remains modest at no more than 2.9% and 1.7%. The point is that the number of African countries considered as tourist destinations is very limited, as tourism is mainly concentrated in the countries of North and South Africa as well as other countries such as Gambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda etc.

It is also observed in the recent years that there is a growing tourist activity in African countries that account for 47.8% of the volume of Africa's foreign tourism. A large African tourist market is held biennially, with inputs coming from some Arab countries.

C) Culture and Media:

There is no doubt that an integrated Afro-Arab cooperation is in a dire need of stimulation in the fields of culture and the media. In the present day world, these areas have decisive effects on the formation of critical trends of public opinion worldwide. In this regard, some steps have been taken to promote cultural and media cooperation between the two regions. These include serious efforts made by some Arab countries, especially Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen, in terms of providing thousands of scholarships for African students to study at these countries' institutes, in addition to the establishment of Arab Cultural Centers in some African countries.

A number of cooperation agreements were also signed between some Arab media agencies and their African counterparts. There is also an enthusiasm to make the transmission of some Arab satellite channels reach Africa. A meeting was held in Cairo in 1990, among the heads of Afro-Arab media organizations, during which they agreed on the possibility of using the Arab satellite and the African Network of Communications for the exchange of television programs, the establishment of medium-sized centers and ground broadcast stations in an African country in order to serve as the central feed for the two sides.

The Union of African Journalists, based in Cairo, has contributed to training of hundreds of African journalists during the last two decades in journalism, including the press, radio and television.

D) Youth and Sport:

It is known that youth and sports sector is one of the most important avenues supposed to promote Arab-African cooperation, especially as sports sector has become one of the most important investment and business sectors in the world as evidenced in the memorable contributions made by African athletes to many sports sectors in various parts of the world. The reality is that the two sides have early recognized the importance of strengthening this sector as a key component of cooperation. They had entered into cooperation agreement on youth and sports in 1985, through the Council of Ministers of Arab Youth and Sports and the Supreme Council of Sport in Africa.

The Cairo Declaration on the Afro-Arab youth and Sports program was announced in September 1991, on the sidelines of the fifth African tournament. Such agreements have identified cooperation frameworks between the two sides. The Afro-Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports met in Tunisia in 1992 on the sidelines of the Arab-African trade fair, and agreed to coordinate their positions within the international federations and organizations, to work on the establishment of an African Centre for Sports Medicine, and to organize Arab-African games. In addition, a joint meeting of ministers is held every four years or in coincidence with each African or Arab tournament, but the majority of these understandings have not yet been implemented. It is therefore expected that these efforts will be reactivated through practical steps and regular procedures to be taken by both sides.

Third: Role of private sector: «Priorities of action and visions for partnership»

The role of the private sector indicates its modest contribution to enhancing Arab-African trade and economic cooperation in general. It may not be held full responsible in this regard, as it is well known that capital does only exist in fertile and safe investment environments.



Generally, we can refer to some of the steps and priorities that can be adopted by Arab and African private sectors in this regard as follows:-

The private sector can encourage and support the creation of systematic database on trade and investment environment in African and Arab countries, as well as the effects of their political, geographic and demographic circumstances on trade and investment-related decisions in general. The Private sector's interest in consolidating its ties and contacts with official bodies and committees concerned with the economic and trade cooperation within the framework of the formal institutional structure of Afro-Arab relations.

The private sector can exercise an active role in stimulating national legislative institutions working on the enactment of legislation and give necessary incentives to encourage and protect investment and capital flows.

Keeness of the private sector on both sides to strengthen ties with each other through the construction of channels of communication between businessmen and their various unions, and to hold multiple periodic and regular meetings, in addition to the exchange of business and investment information.

Private sector's support to any government efforts on both sides to establish a fund or an authority to ensure investment, free movement of capital, speedy remittances and an effective, practical mechanism for appropriate compensation in the face of investment risks in general.

Keeness of the private sector on reactivating its role related to its social responsibility, including by resolving social development problems, and contributing practically to reducing the burdens of the poor, improving their financial capabilities and enabling them to contribute to production and trade by improving their purchasing powers.

Private sector's initiative to establish joint promotional trade shows, holding marketing, investment and tourism conferences and meetings, and sponsoring joint cultural and media meetings and forums.

Fourth: Successful models on the road to cooperation:

It may be necessary at this juncture to point out a media fact – or so to speak – which indicates that in as much as information is known about the size of the obstacles to the Arab-African cooperation, there is a clear negligence in marketing the positive aspects of this cooperation, a fault shared by most of those involved in undertaking such cooperation on both sides. Accordingly, we can point out some of the successful experiences and steps that have been taken in terms of strengthening cooperation between the two sides through either the organs concerned or initiatives from unofficial sectors on both sides as follows ^{vii}:

1 - Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa:

This Bank was established in February 1974 in order to document the links between African and Arab countries, and to support the economic growth of African countries within the framework of solidarity and common interests. It began its operations in some African countries in March 1975, and its functions were identified as follows:

- Contribution to the financing of economic development of African countries.

- Encouraging the contribution of Arab capital to the development of Africa.

- Contribution to the provision of technical assistance to development in Africa.

The Bank finances projects and technical assistance operations in African countries and provides project loans. The interest rate ranges between 1 % and 4% per annum, while the loan term ranges between 18 and 30 years. It further grants a grace period of between four and ten years, and the priority is given to its activities in agriculture, infrastructure and human resource development.

Since its inception, the bank funding have targeted 42 out of the total number of countries eligible to benefit from its loans and aid; it also targeted some regional organizations. The loans include a large proportion of non-refundable grants. For example, the total net loans granted from 1975 to 2000 amounted to \$ 1590 million.

2 - Afro-Arab Trade Fair:

This exhibition was set up in order to support economic cooperation and promote trade exchange between Arab and African countries. In June 1989, the Council of the Arab League and the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity agreed the recommendations of the Standing Committee on the organization of Arab-African trade fair. The first exhibition was held in Tunisia in October 1993, the second in Johannesburg in October 1997, and the third held in Dakar in April 1999.

3 - Week of Afro-Arab Businessmen:

This week was launched out of a common desire to support the economic and trade cooperation and investment between the two sides. The council of the Arab League and the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity approved the holding of such a week, and the first exhibition was set up in Cairo in March 1995. We have no information on whether or not the expo has been held since then. The fact of the matter is that the experience was successful.

4-Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA):



The Association, which is one of the regional governmental organizations, is regarded as the most recent emerging Afro-Arab cooperation institution.

It was created in 2004 thanks to the efforts made by many African and Arab countries. ASSECAA's General Secretariat has its headquarters in Sana'a. Though the Association is still nascent, and its material potentials are modest, it has been able to achieve some relative successes via the implementation of several joint activities.

It seeks to achieve its goals, atop of which came the promotion of bicameralisms and parliamentary efforts, the strengthening of relations among member states, considering the issues of common concern, and making recommendations and decisions thereon. For example, the Association is sponsoring the meetings of Chambers of Commerce Industry in Africa and the Arab world, and contributing to the support of community activities related to scientific and academic aspects of interest to the Association.

These include bicameralism, good governance, democracy, human rights, peace and security issues, the achievement of stability and development in the Association's member countries.

The Association also organizes reciprocal visits of representatives from member councils and sponsors periodic meetings of women parliamentarians from member States.

It has recently sponsored a pilot project in the promotion of young researchers to address issues of interest to the Association in the areas of development and stability.

The project was launched in Sana'a University, represented by the Center for Political and Strategic Studies, in partnership with the Association, which is still keen on proceeding with such a drive in collaboration with academic institutions. It is expected that this project will be circulated later to many universities in the Association's member states.

5-Meeting of chambers of commerce and industry in Africa and the Arab world:

This meeting came out as a fruit of serious cooperation between the Association of Senates, Shura and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world, the business sector in Africa and the Arab world, and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa. The first meeting was held in South Africa in 2008, whereas the second took place in Bahrain in 2010. We in turn are presenting our paper to the third meeting which is held in Morocco from 29-30 November 2012.

In fact, by looking into the documents issued by the two previous meetings, the reality confirms that this relatively recent arrangement has provided an insight into and practical approaches to the development of economic and trade cooperation between Africa and the Arab world. Perhaps, of the most prominent

objectives the meeting seeks to achieve is to conclude an agreement on the establishment of Afro-Arab trading bloc «AATB.» This project could add a lot to the content of cooperation in case it sees the light of the day in the near future. Further, the above-mentioned meetings also came up with a set of recommendations on economic and trade cooperation between the two sides.

What distinguishes this meeting is the presentation of a range of specialized work-papers in order to confirm the Association's desire for expanding its outlook on the future of cooperation into specialized and methodical frameworks, something for which this meeting takes credit.

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Work paper summary on «Economic and trade cooperation between Africa and the Arab world, The challenges and prospects for building the future»

At the 3rd Meeting of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Africa and the Arab world Rabat – Morocco 29-30 November 2012 by: Dr.Sami Mohammed Al-Siyaghi Assistant Professor of Political Science, Director, Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, Sana'a University



Chapter Two :- Culture

Introductory Remarks

Harnessing Culture for Economic Development in Africa and Arab World

The term “culture” was first coined by the renowned English anthropologist Edward B. Taylor in his book, *Primitive Culture*, published in 1871. Taylor defined culture as “that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, law, morals, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.” Since Taylor’s time, the concept of culture has become the central focus of anthropology (Palomar College, 2012).

Kim Ann Zimmermann defined Culture as “the characteristics of a particular group of people, defined by everything from language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts” (Live Science, 2012).

The contribution of culture to economic development is still widely overlooked. Indeed, the process of gauging the socio-economic performance of the cultural sector is a comparatively new trend. Besides, the issue is a controversial one, as many still hold that cultural activities are matters of entertainment and intellectual enlightenment. This leads some to perceive culture as being of mediocre use in respect of economic development and must therefore be confined to grassroots involvement.

Recently, researchers have spelt out the idea that culture can impact a wide range of policy goals, including economic development, rural development, urban revitalization, revenue generation, tourism, accessibility and participation, diversity, education, and youth development.

Culture is defined a system of values and norms that are shared among a group of people and that when taken together constitute a design for living.

Africa and Arab world are rich in cultural heritage. The optimum exploitation of cultural legacy in both regions would go a long way towards driving economic development.

Culture involves a wide range of cultural activities, including those integrated within cultural policy, which are dealing with the conservation, creation/production, dissemination and trading, as well as education, in all cultural goods and services. They include conservation and management of cultural heritage, visual arts, performing arts and cultural events, among others.

Cultural institutions include those organizations that enhance cultural comprehension and taste and encourage creativity such as universities, academies, colleges, libraries and media outfits.

Economic development is fundamentally about enhancing the factors of productive capacity, such as land, labor, capital, and technology of national economy. It influences growth and restructuring of an economy to enhance economic well-being. Countries experience economic growth when the standard of living is rising.

Of high importance is the cultural sector’s contribution to the economy and poverty alleviation. Cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries, sustainable cultural tourism, and cultural infrastructure can serve as strategic tools for revenue generation, particularly in developing countries, including Arab and African countries, given their often-rich cultural heritage and substantial labour force.

Cultural and creative industries represent one of the most rapidly expanding sectors in the global economy with a growth rate of 17.6 % in the Middle East, 13.9 % in Africa, 11.9 % in South America, 9.7 % in Asia, 6.9 % in Oceania, and 4.3 % in North and Central America.

Cultural Tourism is a powerful vehicle for economic growth and job creation all over the world. The tourism sector is directly and indirectly responsible for 8.8 percent of the world’s jobs (258million); 9.1 percent of the world’s GDP (US\$6 trillion); 5.8 percent of the world’s exports (US\$1.1 trillion); and 4.5 percent of the world’s investment (US\$652 billion) (WTTC 2011) .

With its world-class combination of cultural and natural attractions, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has long held a powerful allure for tourists. It has made tourism an important source of revenue and growth. In 2011, the industry contributed an estimated US\$107.3 billion, representing 4.5 percent of the region’s Gross Domestic Product, and accounted for 4.5 million jobs, almost seven percent of total employment.

In conclusion, Culture counts. And today more than ever, it counts for countries, contributing to improving the quality of life and bringing in economic transformation. Culture is a full-fledged economic sector that – as any other – generates impacts on the urban environment, ranging from direct and indirect expenditure to employment generation. Therefore, it is incumbent upon African and Arab governments should work towards harnessing their cultures for the achievement of economic development that would enable them catch up with the advanced countries.



The Role of Cultural Heritage in Boosting Understanding among Nations

The British Anthropologist Edward B. Taylor (1889) defines culture as “that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capacities and habits acquired by man as a member of society”.

It is an intellectual and moral activity that springs from most profound human feelings, an activity that keeps abreast of time from which it derives an ability to move on. An intellectual activity is not a mere effort to comprehend and reproduce information in accord with a constant pattern; rather, it is a behavior based on creativity and revival that ultimately aim to ameliorate and fix the humanitarian situation in a bid to wipe off its bleakness.

Cultural diversity is a driving force for development not only in terms of economic growth, but also in terms of leading a consummate intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual life as enshrined in the international conventions on culture, which provide a solid ground for reinforcing such a kind of diversity.

Significance of culture

Culture is increasingly gaining significance, as it plays a pivotal role in pushing forward rapprochement and dialogue among various cultures. It seeks to meet the noble goal of forging a consensus on the creation of a cultural civilization that encourages better co-existence among peoples by means of communication and understanding.

Dialogue of civilizations has largely drawn great attention from researchers and cultural think-tanks, particularly as it is conducted in a war-ravaged world. Therefore, dialogue could serve as a panacea for most of the crises facing the world’s countries, hence the importance of culture.

Intercultural dialogue is indispensable to all humanity, especially if it is willing to avert negative conflicts rather than the civilizational repelling among nations, which is originally a Divine tenet.

Dialogue among rivals, which is based on a rightful approach, should prevail among civilizations and cultures provided that it meets the conditions for understanding, co-existence, justice and equality. In addition, all stakeholders can be fully convinced that the dialogue of civilizations is the most optimal means to circumvent the problems of wars, conflicts and terrorism, which should be rightly defined and conceptualized away from exaggerations, pretexts

and unjust prejudgments.

More importantly, intercultural dialogue promotes rapport, reinforces understanding, gives rise to affection and cordiality, establishes friendships and contributes to the maintenance of peace and security of nations.

The UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity adopted in 2001 recognizes that cultural diversity is the common heritage of humanity; it also acknowledges the potential of inter-cultural dialogue. The preamble to the Declaration states that “Culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions **and beliefs**”.

This Declaration was supplemented in 2005 by the International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Article 1 of the same Convention states thus: “Cultural diversity can be protected and promoted only if human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression, information and communication, as well as the ability of individuals to choose cultural expressions, are guaranteed”.

Like any other nations that cherish and value its cultural heritage, Africa and Arab world have rich and deep-rooted cultural patrimony that is inextricably correlated to originality and novelty, thereby forming one of the most important sources of culture.

Furthermore, Afro-Arab culture can co-exist with other contemporaneous cultures only when we pay attention to the subject based on the objective vision of



deriving benefits from such cultures in such a manner that never harms national identity. It is incumbent upon Arab and African nations to prevent their beliefs from melting away into any other cults and to keep their values from fusing into other traditions. They have to awaken their brilliant past, revive their



civilizational record and integrate themselves into the age, not just standing at the threshold of history or remaining nostalgic for the past. The once shining glory that had vanished in the past wouldn't return back, except if we keep pace with the dynamics of the age, and stick to our well-ingrained legacy. This means that we should set the objectives we wish to attain and to build a new road to the glory by creating a reality that elevates us to the ranks of the advanced nations.

Cultural heritage:

Heritage is usually defined as a set of cultural components which are transmitted from one generation to another. These largely reflect their own cultural sustainability in terms of time and setting. Besides, legacy includes proverbs, sayings, and tales in addition to visible actions and practices. In other words, it is the legacy of physical artifacts (cultural property) and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations,

1-Tangible Cultural Heritage:

It is the intellectual legacy which is composed of what ancestors, including scholars, thinkers, artists and creative people, who served as witnesses on their eras, had left behind such as masterpieces and manuscripts indicative of their existence.

In other words, Tangible heritage includes buildings and historic places, monuments, artifacts, etc., which are considered worthy of preservation for the future. These include objects significant to the archaeology, architecture, science or technology of a specific culture.

2-Intangible Cultural Heritage:

It is also called social heritage that includes lifestyle, attitudes, discipline, behaviors, customs and habits, proverbs, traditions and social value system. It also covers handicrafts, artifacts, and architecture. It also comprises traditions or forms



maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.

Though the term “cultural heritage” has increasingly become familiar, many still don't know what is it and why should we preserve it? The term has changed content considerably in recent decades. Cultural heritage does not end at monuments and collections of objects. It also includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe.

Cultural heritage can be categorized into two types:

of living expressions inherited from forbearers and exchanged by successive generations. These include oral expressions, show arts, social practices, rituals, festivals and other practices related to the nature and universe, as well as the information and skills related to traditional handicrafts.

Further, intangible cultural heritage is not restricted to past traditions; rather, it includes contemporary rural and urban practices shared by various cultural groups. It is an all-encompassing legacy, as the forms of expressions we practice may well be corresponding to those practiced by others who may either hail from nearby villages, or remote cities or have migrated to and settled in different areas. Anyway, various forms of expressions are regarded as an intangible cultural



heritage, which was passed on from one generation to another; these forms evolved in response to previous generations' environment, thereby giving us a sense of identity and continuity and serving as a link between the past, the present and the future.

This type of legacy never raises questions about whether or not some practices are peculiar of a particular culture; it contributes to reinforcing social cohesion and feeds a sense of belongingness and responsibility, a matter that further galvanizes individuals' sense of belonging to a specific local community or various local communities and that they are one in the same.

In view of the significance of the cultural heritage, the International intergovernmental committee for the Safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, a UNESCO-run body, resolved during its sixth session

project for the enforcement of the Convention on the safeguarding of cultural heritage in several countries, with the participation of France-based World Cultures House.

Transmission and Conservation:

Defining cultural heritage entails mentioning the issue of transmission and conservation as manifested in the definition of heritage. Heritage is a legacy that is passed on from one generation to another. Therefore, transmission and inheritance are a prerequisite for considering a cultural item a heritage. Regardless of its past value and importance, heritage needs to be discovered, preserved and revived and displayed in order for it to remain effective and live in such a way as to open up new avenues for people.

Preservation:



held on the Indonesian island of Bali in 2011, to place new components of heritage on its list consisting of over 200 components of intangible cultural heritages in a dire need of urgent safeguarding. This brought to 29 the number of cultural heritage elements from only 9 countries, which need to be urgently safeguarded. The representative intangible cultural heritage list consists of 232 elements from some 70 countries. Still, there is a list of the best safeguarding practices. States parties to the Convention on the Preservation of Intangible Cultural heritage are entitled to nominate their cultural heritage components for placement on the said list. There have so far been 139 countries signatory to the convention adopted by the UNESCO conference held in 2003. The Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding the Intangible Heritage is made up of 24 members who are elected by the general assembly of the states parties to the convention and half of whom have their terms of office renewed every two years.

It is worth mentioning that UNESCO, backed by the EU, undertook the Live Mediterranean heritage

The preservation of cultural heritage connotes the preservation thereof. The basic value of heritage lies in the fact that it stands for a nation's patrimony, wisdom, collective sense and its unity inherited from the past, which contributes to the creation of its awareness in the present.

Therefore, a nation is unlikely to make use of its heirloom except if it felt the need to recognize it, strived for self-quest and prepared itself for shouldering the responsibility of transmitting same to next generations. In a sense, a country must preserve its cultural patrimony before it is too late as a prelude to passing it on to the next generations.

Preservation of legacy has two connotations to it: the first implies the protection of antiquities, monuments and archeological sites.

It also means preserving antiquities, landmarks and historic sites i.e. keeping them intact as transmitted to us. This also implies they should remain unchanged and devoid of any distortions, in addition to preventing



them from being plundered, stolen and or smuggled.

The second implication is that legacy, which is a background to our civilization, must be revived by means of exposing and repairing it based on scientific methods. It should also be collected, projected, studied and propagated. More importantly, legacy items, such as masterpieces and relics, should be registered and documented in order to make them explicable and profoundly conceptual. It also indicates making best use of , and encouraging reproduction of legacy.

As we live in developing societies that need to utilize science and technology as a contemporary form of future heritage, we feel that we have an adequate amount of maturity that enable us to preserve our cultural identity in a tumultuous world dominated by supreme cultures that are potentially capable of

As cultural legacy is unique and irreplaceable, we must take the onus of preserving and safeguarding it, and spreading awareness of the dangers to such patrimony.

As ASSECAA member countries, like other world countries, are being influenced by globalization whose future consequences are unanticipated, we should admit that our ability to learn about cultural heritage, which is integral to our national identity, has become too limited. Hence, we should not blame people for this , as their ability to learn about all the elements of their legacy is a daunting task, in addition to the dearth of the personnel specialized in safeguarding and preserving heritage as well as the scarcity of technological devices that enable these employees do their job in full.

The role that can be played by civil society



uprooting feeble ones, whose people are oblivious to the tools of enhancing and advocating same.

ASSECAA member states' cultural legacy, with its diverse dimensions, is either intangible such as antiquities and other human cultural leftovers, in-kind and intangible, or tangible heritage inherited by successive generations. Like other world countries, ASSECAA member countries' tangible and intangible heritage runs the risk of being obliterated due to the increasing effects of globalization as in the case of other world countries that have recently discerned the significance of cultural heritage in establishing the pillars of society, projecting its identity, and building up bridges of intercultural dialogue in a conflict-ridden world.

organization in conserving cultural heirloom cannot be overemphasized. We should not also be oblivious of the fact that a magazine to be designed for gathering information on the niceties and nuances of cultural heritage must be established in order to help researchers on cultural heritage find the sought after information.

Legislation:

Any talk of heritage entails debating policies, legislations, plans and programs that should be undertaken by the competent authorities, scientific and cultural institutions. It also involves talking about unofficial efforts as well as regional and international cooperation meant to develop scientific and empirical practices that preserve and revive legacy. This is because the preservation of heirloom is a collective



responsibility. Indeed, heritage is a public property that may intersect with genuine cultural properties; it is an integral part of the public sector rather than the private sector.

The principles of crystallizing and framing common legislation on cultural heritage can be summed up as follows:

1-Legitimate reciprocation of historical and cultural qualities, which enriches social and cultural existence of nations and people, and enhances mutual respect, affection and friendship among them.

2- A nation's movable cultural heritage is regarded as a basic component of its culture and civilization, in addition to being an integral part of universal human culture. This requires a regional cooperation on fighting theft and smuggling of cultural properties.

3-Safeguarding and preserving historic cultural properties against the dangers of illegal excavations, thievery and smuggling, which is the duty of governments.

4-Clandestine diggings at archeological sites, larceny, illegal importation and exportation of cultural objects constitute a key reason for lack of such properties in the countries of origin.

5-Setting up a good system for conserving immovable cultural heritage and enhancing coordination and cooperation among the institutions concerned with combating the theft and trafficking of cultural properties.

6-Documentation, preparation and inventorying of national cultural properties.

7-Convenient oversight of archeological excavations and standardizing the tools of preserving cultural properties at discovery sites.

8-Practical steps must be taken to boost public awareness of the necessity of safeguarding public properties.

9-Educational, scientific and technical institutions should be encouraged to preserve cultural objects, upgrade and expand museums and support cooperation on preserving and exchanging cultural properties among Afro-Arab museums.

10-There should be issued security clearances allowing the export of some cultural objects while at the same time banning the illegal exportation of

unlicensed items that should be repatriated to the country of origin if exported illegally.

11-Enhancing international cooperation on fighting the smuggling of cultural objects with the countries of origin, and working towards repatriating smuggled items, and bringing those accused of running them to account.

12-Confirming the inalienable right, in each and every country, to the classification of cultural objects, and announcing that some of these objects are



inconvertible, and banning their exportation to other countries.

Spreading awareness of cultural heritage:

People's poor awareness or rather ignorance of the importance of cultural heritage is a key reason for its decay and/ or loss of most of its elements. Thus, we should enhance awareness of the cultural legacy in order to create a close link between citizens and their patrimony so that they can convincingly preserve and safeguard it.

Legacy can never be conserved unless people are educated on its significance, given that the preservation of same contributes to the protection of national identity. This matter can look idealistic; however, people should realize that the conservation of heirloom would ultimately be for the common good of all citizens. Thus, it is incumbent upon every citizen to do his/her utmost to serve the public interests of their country. In other words, the preservation of heritage should not be only the responsibility of government and its competent institutions.

Consequently, long-term educational programs should be undertaken to spread awareness of the importance of cultural heritage among people and governments, something that should be prioritized and given a sense of urgency in order to salvage the remaining semblance of cultural heritage whose values are crumbling under the strikes of the axes of



artificial modernity.

These include but not restricted to the following:

- Setting up more museums.
- Production and distribution of cultural heritage-related publications.
- Confirming the role of the general public in preserving legacy and employing it for the benefit of the masses.
- Circulating all legislation on cultural heritage.
- Encouraging all countries, including their provinces, cities, and villages, to project their historic milestones.

Citizens' respect for and compliance with heritage conservation laws and their cooperation with the competent authorities, including by reporting any incidents of smuggling and or stealing cultural objects, would enable these to timely take the necessary measures to preserve historical sites and cultural objects.

The importance of conserving cultural heritage indicates that it is an integral part of any country's national legacy; therefore, genuine efforts should be exerted to spread awareness of the significance of cultural heritage. These include the documentation of cultural heritage in ASSECAA member states, enactment of heritage preservation laws, laying out a national strategy to safeguard it and then undertaking awareness programs on the intangible cultural heritage. In addition, media outlets must be engaged in setting out communication plans, integrating heritage in all government policies and plans in each country, and then engaging people in identifying and debating the phenomena that reflect negatively or positively on the sustainability and vitality of cultural heritages. Further, awareness drives should be consistent with cultural heritage legislations, in addition to the fact that a local, regional and international strategies should be laid out for the purpose of preserving the cultural heritage. It is also necessary to make an inventory of ASSECAA member states' cultural heritage elements as per the UNESCO standards for the safeguarding of legacy.

Summary of the work-paper authored by Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah, Professor of Archeology, Sana'a University

Summary of the work-paper “Towards a Common Strategy for a Culture of Peace in Africa & the Arab world” authored by Ms. Tigist Yeshiwas Engdaw- Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS)

Culture of Peace

According to the definition adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, a Culture of Peace consists “of values, attitudes and behaviors that reflect and inspire social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity, that reject violence and endeavor to prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation and that guarantee the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society”(UNESCO, 1995).



Africans and Arabs share the common experience of being colonized, subjected to slavery, and deprived of their basic human rights, with apartheid being unique to South Africa. Through their struggle against these injustices, they regained their inspiration and realized the importance of the “culture of peace.” It is necessary to establish the reasons behind the existence of the culture of violence in a given society. Knowing the root causes of the problem will help to transform a society from the “Culture of violence” to the “Culture of peace.”

Therefore, what actions need to be taken to achieve this end goal?

The International Congress on “Peace in the Minds of Men” which took place in Cote d'Ivoire in 1989 urged the UNESCO to come up with numerous resolutions regarding the culture of peace. In addition, the UN General Assembly adopted in 1999 the “Declaration and Program of Action for a Culture of Peace”, which focuses on eight action areas:

1. Fostering a culture of peace through education.
2. Promoting sustainable economic and social development.



3. Promoting respect for all human rights.
4. Ensuring equality between women and men. participation.
6. Advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity.
7. Supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge.
8. Promoting international peace and security.

To implement this Program of action, UNESCO held in Cote d'Ivoire in June 2012 a Reflection Forum with a subregional focus:

« A Culture of Peace in West Africa: essential for economic development and social cohesion».

The Africa Union on its part has set a strategic plan to build Culture of Peace in Africa. To translate its vision of having “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena”, the Africa Union Commission has identified four strategic pillars as follows:

1. Peace and Security
2. Integration, Development and Cooperation
3. Shared Values
4. Institution and Capacity Building

These pillars constituted the strategic focus around which the Commission implements programmes and actions meant to address the major challenges facing the African Continent.

We may be obliged to ask: “What are the (re)sources of ‘Culture of Peace’ in Africa and Arab countries?”

We can consider the entire continent of Africa and the Arab region as both a source and resource for the culture of peace. We may also, at the same time, consider the “Culture of peace” as a source and a resource for both regions.

However, African and Arab sources and resources do not stand in isolation; rather they are affected by a global culture, which is becoming more and more individualistic and materialistic. African and Arab values are under the constant threat of being marginalized while their resources are often the source of war and conflict.

At the continental level, the African Union has also launched a series of political initiatives and programmes aimed at achieving peace and sustainable development, as did the Arab League.

Launching series of political initiatives and programs aiming at achieving peace and sustainable development is very vital and great. How to convert the initiatives and the programs into action and sound implementation, beyond rhetoric, is the question that needs to be

answered.

The promotion of the concept of “Culture of Peace” relies heavily on the intrinsic bond between people and their environment.

In the case of Africa, the relationship between individuals, and the rich biodiversity or shared management of natural resources (land and water) are some of the essential pillars in the struggle for the eradication of poverty and the promotion of a “Culture of Peace.”

Africans have their own way of traditional mechanisms for conflict resolution. These include, but not restrictive to, the Gacaca in Rwanda, Gurti in Council of Elders in Somalia, Ubuntu concept in South Africa, Council of higher and lower chiefs in Ghana, Mato-Oput in northern Uganda, in Ethiopia erq in Amahric and araara in Oromifia and Sidama.

As the overwhelming majority of Arab Countries are Muslims their culture is influenced and based on Islamic teaching which preaches reconciliation and peace. There we find the term “sulh” constantly in use.



The traditional conflict resolution mechanisms are legitimate and accepted by the society at large, and are cost effective. They focus on reconciliation, and are accessible and proximate. They are characterized by familiarity and impartiality as well as the broad participation of the people. The Decisions reached through arguments, negotiation and discussions made such mechanisms more legitimate and acceptable. (Tarkegn A. and Hannah T.2008).

On the other hand, the major weakness of Traditional Conflict resolutions includes bias against women and younger people, tendency towards corruption, weak consciousness of human rights, inequality, intermesh of social status and gender, and dependence on oral tradition (Tarkegn A. and Hannah T.2008).

African reconciliations and reintegration concepts may add value to the discourse and contextual promotion and alignment of strategy and framework towards “Culture of Peace”. The Arab experience of “wa’efu wasfehu”, and “wemen afa we asfeha”, which means (forgive and get reconciled) also add value to the “Culture of Peace”.



Africa's Contribution to a "Culture of Peace"

According to one of the leading experts on "Culture of Peace," David Adams, "Africa's contribution to culture of peace is very significant". Like people on other continents, Africans always had culture of war at a tribal level, (with the exception of the Nile River Valley), but they did not use war to create empires.



The division of Africa into warring nation-states was imposed by the Europeans. The pre-colonial Africa was marked by effective peace-making traditions of dialogue and mediation at the community level. Those conventions were based on respect for the elders (both men and women).

These traditions re-emerged during the freedom struggle in South Africa, both in the Peace Process involving local peace committees and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which was presided over by Desmond M. Tutu.

David Adams explains that the traditions are "re-emerging" because they were largely suppressed by the Europeans when they conquered Africa. David further states that: "In pre-colonial times, there was a tradition of the Bashingantahe, elders who did mediation and peace-making. But they were systematically assassinated by the colonial power. After all, peace-making is a kind of power since it unites people, and it is difficult to conquer a people that are united".

African states have become increasingly active in seeking African-owned solutions to the continental challenges, and taking measures towards development of their peace and security mechanisms, and have become aware that seeking the transition of "Culture of Peace" involves establishing new democratic structures and not military solutions. (UNECA/IGAD, 2012).

The Arab spring towards "Culture of Peace"

According to David Adams, the Arab Spring brought hope, but instead of economic stability and prosperity, it has brought instability and massive unemployment.

Despite the ongoing violence in countries like Syria, Egypt, Libya and Yemen, the Arab spring has provided

rich education for peace and non-violence.

Ismail Seragedin, in his analysis, raised the initiatives for non-violence in Yemen and the experience of non-violence in Palestine, especially as both countries that are suffering the most from violence.

Considering the case of Egypt, which in addition to political crises faces economic crises, David Adams discusses the military intervention, which truly brings about a certain "stability" compared to prevailing chaos.

He argues that "whenever the military takes control, it brings the culture of war: authoritarian governance, threat and/or utilization of violence, intolerance and identification of "internal enemies", control of information, and violation of human rights, male supremacy and development by exploitation."

Confirming this analysis, one of the first acts of Egypt's new military administration was to shut down four television stations. And UN human rights chief Navi Pillay has expressed concern over reports of the detention of leading members of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood.

We need to consider whether the Arab Spring can inspire democratic movements in the two regions in light of the eight program areas of the Culture of Peace:

1. Democratic Participation: This is at the center of the Arab revolutions. With the participation of all people in elections that involve ballots not bullets, the struggle for democracy in the Arab states becomes part of an even more global movement in recent decades.

2. Human rights: In the long run, this is crucial. "The willingness of new governments to respect rights will determine whether those uprisings give birth to genuine democracy or simply spawn authoritarianism in new forms." (Human Rights Watch)

"Creation of a rights-respecting state can be painstaking work that requires building effective institutions of governance, establishing independent courts, creating professional police, and resisting the temptation of majorities to disregard human rights and





the rule of law

3. Education for peace and non-violence: The Arab spring has provided rich education for peace and non-violence.

4. Tolerance and solidarity: Radicalism and fundamentalism are countered by many initiatives on religious tolerance and solidarity. Despite the emphasis on violence by the commercial media, the world is learning that there are currents within Islam that promote a culture of peace. (Mustafa Cherif)



5. Equality between women and men: Women have played a crucial role in the leadership of the Arab spring. Although there is yet a long way to go before women gain full equality, their activism has planted a “seed that will grow into greater demand.”

6. Free flow of information: The free flow of information has been essential to the Arab spring. The young generation is motivated to learn and share the truth and they cannot be stopped from communicating it. The revolution in Egypt was accomplished by youth armed only with cell phones and IPADS.

7. Disarmament and security: Mubarak in Egypt, Ghaddafi in Libya, and now Assad in Syria, have been unable to maintain power through their military force. At the same time, the United States and their European allies have also been unable to impose their will through military intervention in Libya, and in Syria. Although it is ignored by the media and traditional political power, nonviolent resistance is becoming the true power of the people.

8. Sustainable development: In many respects around the world, the engagement of civil society for sustainable development is the most advanced component of the movement for a culture of peace. However, in the case of the Arab spring, it is not at the forefront of the struggle

It can be concluded that the Arab Spring and the ongoing democratic revolution in the Arab countries are providing an important new momentum towards a Culture of Peace and democratic struggle.

African humanism (Ubuntu) , which constitutes the very essence of being human , generous, hospitable,

friendly, caring, and compassionate, is an invaluable treasure that Africa can offer to the globe (Tarkegin A and Hannha T, 2008).

The youth is the main human resource of the two regions and must be encouraged and supported to make the choice of transition from a culture of violence and war to a Culture of Peace.

To resolve the root causes of conflict and to build sustainable peace, it is very necessary to foster Culture of Peace through education. It is desirable to educate and equip the youth with the knowledge and skills of how to foster dialogue by means of nonviolent conflict resolution techniques, and educating citizens on their own basic rights. By so doing, peace educators will help to shift the norms and paradigms of conflict.

Scientific research is very crucial to explore the problem of lack of sufficient practices of culture of peace in the two regions and on how to re-introduce a Culture of Peace and the process on how the effort will help to transform the war culture to Culture of Peace.

The culture of violence is extremely complex. Its manifestations include Militarism, oppression, exploitation and the marginalization of the poor.

A serious analysis of the manifestations is required to develop strategies to overcome violence and promote culture of peace through forgiveness and traditional reconciliation mechanisms.

I. Policy recommendations

1. Re-introduce culture of peace at all level: top, middle and grass roots.

2. Design and implement the process of transferring the knowledge and wisdom of our ancestors pertinent to our great Culture of Peace.

3. Conduct empirical research and study into our heritage of Culture of Peace.

4. Introduce peace education in school curriculum.

5. Parliaments and policy makers need to integrate Culture of Peace into peace building and development process.

6. Promote such values as compassion, interdependence, diversity, sustainability and nonviolence.

7- There is need to foster democracy, respect for human rights, respect for gender equality, and above all to promote love for justice.

8 There is need to appreciate diversity and to encourage democratic participation.

9- There is need for the two regions' joint efforts to engage in research and studies in the area of Culture of Peace.

10- There is need to educate children and the youth on how to analyze, understand and deal with conflict and to equip them with the traditional conflict resolution mechanisms.



Chapter Three :Democracy and human rights

Introduction

The struggle for consolidating the values of democracy and human rights is regarded as one of the most important human civilization achievements that have so far been made by the human mind, and to which all mankind from different hues, races and cultural backgrounds had contributed over the course of history ; democracy is a practical and realistic embodiment for a form of political awareness and assumes , in its essence , fundamental principles and values represented by freedom , justice and equality .

Democracy is the only form of political regime which is compatible with respect for human rights. So when you talk about democracy and human rights, we conclude that the association of these two concepts , as democratic system is the best protector of human rights and human rights are the fertile ground where democracy grows and its concepts are enhanced ; in the sense that the democratic approach can never be set out properly, except on a convenient fertile ground fit for the growth of freedom which individual citizens should enjoy in order to have the free will . This enables them to gain whatever knowledge they seek and to be totally free in terms of making their own choices as a prerequisite for any democratic practice.

Democracy and human rights were of major concern to the olden days of human societies ; the evidence is that Hamourabi Shari , in the Eastern part of the globe , in which he had enacted his laws emphasizing human rights, while in Greece, the dialogue of Plato, Aristotle and Socrates embodied a reformation model. In his “Republic” , Plato well construed the way justice ought to be dispensed , visualized the establishment of Utopia, and floated the idea of having rational rulers and thinkers .

Also in the East, the cradle of three divine religions, had witnessed a broad reformation movement that redressed pervasive grievances, thus paving the way for what is known today as “human rights” , as well as - forms of democracy in the republics of ancient India, which existed in the sixth century BC .With the development of life and civil societies, such human concepts were given more attention and came to assume higher significance.

When we talk about democracy in the Arab world and Africa , at the present time , we should bear in mind that it’s all about fresh plant which grows cautiously in the ground of Arab and African

cultures which characterized numerous customs and traditions that sometimes constitute obstacles to democratic transformation. These include social structure , sectarian , tribal and ethnic loyalties.....etc.

Moreover, the Western model of democracy, as the world has come to know today, can never be the sole paradigm befitting all societies due to the divergence of social values and cultural legacies prevailing in such societies. Arab and African societies are no exception.

Democracy and human rights would not seemingly be off the political, intellectual and media agenda owing to the events unfolding in the region in pursuit of democratization and regime change taking place in most Arab countries ; This necessitates further debates and deep thinking on the appropriate mechanisms for this transformation , because the political scene is complex and surrounded by ambiguity in many countries that have been changed .

This is because the political systems in these countries - before change – adopted formal democracies and harnessed the means of democracy (constitutions , parliaments , elections and parties) for their interests .

In fact , they moved away from the proper approach of democracy in order to ensure their stay in power for a long time , which prompted their peoples to revolt against them seeking change and in the hope of shaping up their futures , in a manner that meets their aspirations for getting justice , equality, freedom and a decent life.

Accordingly , we can say that democracy is not a game to be hunted or powder to be melted into cups , rather it is an action for the sake of which many social segments are making their efforts including politicians , businessmen , economists , men of law , men of letter , journalists and philosophers .

In this chapter , we presented two work papers on democracy , the first is on “ contributions of education and democracy to development and the achievement of political , economic and social stability “ , prepared by Dr. Adnan Badran , member of Alayan council of Jordan , in ASSECAA retreat , 2007 , which focuses on the contributions of democracy and the correlation between democracy and education ,while the second work paper is on “Procedural standards for building democracies “ , which is prepared by Dr. Saud Mohammed Al-Shawoosh , Assistant Professor of Political Science , Center for Political and Strategic Studies - University of Sana’a , ASSECAA Day , 7 May , 2012



1-“Contributions of education and democracy to the achievement of development and political, economic and social stability“

There is strong correlation between the values of democracy and education, as the values of equality and freedom cannot be achieved in any society without the commitments of the society to the values of education; In addition, democracy represents an approach that helps the society in shaping educational, social and economic policies to be commensurate with the present and future interests in terms of the exploitation of the material and human wealth of a country; practice of democracy requires an awareness of the importance of the role of the individual in the society.

Democracy is a culture of trends and work that cannot be built only through the education, from early childhood, but also absorbed by the child as a way of thought and practice, so that it is growing with his mind to become a way of life and culture of a society.

Democratic reform has become a necessity for the political, economic and social development, prosperity and stability in Africa and the Arab countries in order to achieve peace based on justice, legitimacy and the rule of law.

African and Arab nations are characterized by rich culture and traditions in the areas of governance, trade, science and arts, and are ready for a real partnership, in order to promote freedom and democracy to achieve prosperity for all in a world of globalization and free trade. Democratic reform depends on the self and the will of countries of the region.

Achieving progress in the political, economic and social stability mainly depends on the learning process for building democracy and democratic education, which is formed through a process of learning in the following environments, or incubators: -

1 - Family community: in which the child's mind is shaped by skills and concepts of model, so that, home is considered as the first school in the formation of human thought required for building democracy for the development of political, economic and social life.

2 – Classmates : - The student is affected by his classmates in the learning and quotation process on how to develop democracy, culture of dialogue and respect of opinion differences, and the consolidation of principles of democracy's ethics and building good citizenship.

3 - The school community: - the creative and thinking mind is formed through organized approach that

develops the skills of analysis, conclusion and critical thinking, as well as, ethics, trends and appropriate skills are formed, particularly during the basic education.

4 – University stage : - it is an important incubator in building the intellectual pluralism for the student, and unleash the thought to fly in high orbits, to reach the critical and analytical thinking, and to creativity and innovation; Democracy and culture of dialogue are consolidated in this stage.

5 – Post- university work stage : - application of skills starts in this stage, such as intellectual plurality that leads to political pluralism, which is considered as the basis for building and establishing the democracy.

The contributions of education and democracy are focused on achieving development in three main areas including :-

First: in the political aspect : the progress towards democracy and the rule of law requires an effective guarantees for human rights and other fundamental freedoms, and this will lead to partnership, cooperation, free exchange of ideas, peaceful resolution of disputes, reform of the state's institutions, good governance and transformation towards modernity.

Second: in the social and cultural aspect : - it includes education for all, freedom of expression, equality between men and women, access to information technologies, access to educated workforce, and building of a cognitive society to meet the challenges of globalization, and to be engage in, in full swing with others; this requires elimination of illiteracy, expansion of the educational opportunities, and promotion of the education towards the harmonization and quality, for the development of the society that changes constantly depending on the nature of surrounding environment demographically and geographically.

Third: in the economic aspect, where development needs to deepen the principles of democracy and Shura and to expand the base of public participation in political and social life, respect of the ethics of the work, freedom of expression and ensuring the independence of the judiciary and building an effective civil society and independent media that closely supervise the behaviors of the three powers (legislative, executive and judicial). Democratic systems protect the rights and interests of people, without discrimination, and emphasize the participation of everyone without a marginalization, and promote the rule of law and transparency.



Education and Democracy:

Education plays an important role in the development of democratic awareness among citizens. As democracy is an intellectual, political and social system that incorporates values and principles. It is undeniable that the society will not be able to understand and practice this system properly , unless it learns and trains in its principles.

Education is the best way for the development of citizens who realize the importance of democracy and are able to understand , defend and practice it properly in order for the society to be able to live under this system and get benefit from it .

If democracy is applied in society that is ignorant of its principles , it may be dangerous to that society .

Education plays an important role in the political stability , as being one of the most important pillars of

The level of educational attainment achieved by individuals in the society , leads to redefinition of the roles of those individuals in the building of political pluralism based on dialogue and respect for differences of opinion. Educational process develops the spirit of belonging and promotes national unity, which is reflected on the political stability in the country , as well as it raises the awareness and enlightens the members of the society on their right to political participation and encourages them to exercise this role through relevant institutions . Moreover , it cultivates a culture of community that keeps the coherence of national fabric in order to renounce violence , fight terrorist acts that harm the homeland and the citizen , and finally the educational process , particularly the university , contributes in self-dependence and getting rid of the political dependency which fluctuates and changes depending on the whims and desires of others.

Democracy and its contributions: -

Democracy or “ the rule of people by themselves



the political system , as the educational process depends on educating generations of the political visions of this system and how to achieve these visions through the guidance of the young generations on it. It could be argued that the educational system is an expression , one way or another, of the nature and structure of the political system and its general orientations. The equal opportunities in the educational process support stability for all segments of the society , through bringing out the democracy of education that work on the development of the spirit of belonging to the political system firstly , and to the homeland secondly .

“ either , directly by the people themselves without intermediary (direct democracy) , or through the election of representatives (representative democracy) ; it may be , also , a combination of these two methods by the parliament and the people , each has its functions and is called (semi –direct democracy) ; despite that , the concept of democracy is still ambiguous and there is conflict between the practitioners of political action and because of that , the democratic transformation is hindered in some Arab countries .

The differences on the concept of democracy are due to the existence of intellectual ambiguities that preclude



the ideological and political currents from accepting the democracy. Besides, it may be because of the belief correlation between democracy and the west's ideological beliefs and trends.

It is worth mentioning that the differences on the concept of democracy are not limited to the differences of point of views of the state from the society or the government views from the opposition, but it extends to the differences in the concept of democracy itself - and thus the feasibility of its application, and how to achieve them - to include the political currents, parties and movements that seek for change and working for it.

The differences on the concept of democracy affects

of a comprehensive political development through various civil society institutions, as democracy is a spirit in which all aspects of life, in the society, are practiced and applied.

3. Application of democracy is based on full awareness of its practitioners, so as not to be misunderstood and misused, in order to promote the principles of equality, freedom and the rule of law.

4. Democracy avoids insulting the dignity of the state and its institutions, for being a responsible behavior and noble approach of life that does not give the right to any party to monopolize wisdom and truth, As well as, it does not allow anyone to abuse the rights of vast



an important factions in the society, and today, the reservations of each party on the democracy concept of the other's, or binding Shura, constitute an obstacle to the necessities of the development of political thought, in which each party recognizes the presence of the other party, accepts it as a full partner in the society, respects its right of the expression, takes into account his interests and ensures its effective political participation right. There is no doubt that the differences of political forces on the concept of democracy inhibits the spread of political ideology, in which Arabs and Muslims can establish a consensus in order to face the rule of trusteeship on the people, and replace it with ruling system, in which sovereignty is not for an individual or minority, but rather it should be based on Shura among the people who are the source of the power.

Contributions of democracy to political stability

1- Democracy is keen to establish a system based on the rule of the law, responsible freedom, and respect for others' opinions and that the opinion of the majority should prevail and be respected by the minority.

2. Democracy works on the establishment and implementation

majority of the people.

5. Contemporary democracy, today, is more modest than some people think about it, attributes to it or demand of it; it is far from being a comprehensive doctrine and less than an economic - social system that has a fixed ideological content.

The contemporary democracy is an approach for making public decisions; as well as, it is a necessary approach required for peaceful coexistence among members of the society. This approach is based on principles and institutions that enable the political group to manage differences in opinions and views in peaceful manner, and therefore, it enables the society to control the sources of conflicts and civil wars; Contemporary democracy can achieve that through restricting the democratic practice by a constitution that takes into account the conditions agreed by all actors in the society and to be established by consensus.

Democracy was able to do so when it liberated its ruling system from inertia, so that it becomes deep-rooted in different societies in terms of religion, history and culture.



Accordingly, it became a practical and realistic approach that takes into account the various beliefs and values of the society, takes care of the stage of democratic practice and the results to be achieved from the democratic governance; contemporary democracy is the approach that creates solutions and adapts institutions without prejudice to the principles of democracy or disruption of constitutional institutions.

6- Democracy is considered as one of the national security pillars and solid ground for building a strong united nation, its own strength is created from the abilities and capabilities of its people; national security is a shield for democracy as they are twin, each of them aims at maintaining the national security if they are properly used, it means that the national security is everyone's responsibility in order for the nation to be thriving oasis and intractable against any attempt of penetration.

7- Democracy supports the security institutions in order to play their roles in defending the nation and providing the reasons of security, stability, prosperity and progress, as well as, to protect the country and the security of people from any attack; democracy does not allow for any fabrication or doubting of the role of national security services, because it is considered as a violation of the security of homeland and its people.

8. Democracy supports the political institutions through several institutions, such as the council of Ommah (Nation), political parties, commitment to the constitutions, freedom and dialogue; other behavioral elements include respect for the others' opinions, public participation, and respect of the law.

9. The democracy of the political system is considered as contribution of democracy as being one of its objectives as some people believe, while others believe that it aims at building an independent strong safe state.

10. The democratic approach is an essential element to deepen the sense of belonging to the homeland, strengthen the confidence in its institutions, contribute to the unity of the people and to protect its national security.

11. The successful democratic development - based on the increase of political awareness level for the values of democratic political participation and building the legal and institutional framework for the state community - requires a strong mature and modern society.

Second: - The contributions of democracy to social stability: -

-Among the objectives of democracy are the conformity of individual's interest with the interests of the group, creation of the individual's identity and freedom, and

building the cohesive society.

-Democracy is the best guarantee for social justice in law, reality and custom.

Democracy aims to protect and promote the dignity and fundamental rights of the individual, achieve the social justice and support the socio-economic development.

-Democracy permits the real participation of the citizens in all economic, political and social aspects, in framework of social justice, equal opportunity and balance between rights and freedoms.

Third: the contributions of democracy to economic stability:

1. There is a strong correlation between the economic situation and democracy, but there is no agreement on the nature of this relationship; democracy is a condition for the success of economic reform, which will require difficult decisions, great sacrifices of people, participation in making those decisions and conviction of the necessity of that sacrifices.

The democratic and economic reform, within democracy, go side by side, and it is not supposed that the economic reform process fails within democracy as it remains amendable according to developments and changes, but if it fails due to external reasons such as aggression, blockade or cutting of aids, democracy remains the ultimate weapon against the aggression as the world cannot digest the idea of punishment of any democratic country or attack it.

We must ascertain the extent of the sustainability of economic advancement under the democratic approach, in the case of the failure in reforming the economic process - for local reasons - it is necessary to know the reasons that prevent the economic progress; we must also be certain if that imbalance is resulting from the democratic system itself or because of officials who represent it.

-2- Democracy seeks to respect the individuals' humanity, their enthusiasm and provides a decent living and economic equality for them.

-3- Adoption of democratic approach as a political system leads to national economic stability and social peace.

-4- Achievement of democracy requires a genuine partnership between men and women in the management of the society affairs, in which they are working equally and in an integrated manner that ensures them mutual contribution due to their differences; peace and socio-economic and cultural development are considered as a condition for democracy and one of its fruits.



-The contributions of democracy to the administrative development, which has a close relationship to economy, should be dominated by the democratic system, especially in the sectors of business and economic institutions, and accept the opposite opinion based on scientific and proper grounds, with the aim of public reconciliation, not personal benefit and eliminate the deviation, which is the prevalence of opportunistic and selfish behavior, or the tendency to abuse power in a manner that is inconsistent with the public interest or the legitimate aspects of bureaucratic authority; the deviation may include bribery, nepotism and favoritism, and lack of objective measures required for assessing the performance.

-Democracy has a great role in promoting the principles of administrative decentralization, which helps to activate the role of administrative governors

Accordingly, it is not an absolute freedom, as the government has the right to prevent women and children from engaging in hard works in order to safeguard their health, it has the right, also, to specify some qualifications to be required for certain jobs/ works, as well as, the government has the right to regulate the relationship between the employers and workers, such as conditions of work, treatment, social insurance, working hours and policy of wages and compensations in order to bring harmony between the individuals and public interests, as the worker has the right to receive fair and appropriate payment ensuring decent life for them and their families, in addition, they are entitled to other means of social protection when needed.

-Democratic atmospheres provide a suitable environment for development and progress as they



to actively contribute the development and economic progress, and to cooperate with the citizens in their districts to solve their problems. Subsequently, the management will be ready for the planning, implementation and supervision.

-Democracy grants a responsible freedom which does not violate the rights of individuals, their works and choice or impose particular jobs, nor does it prevent the individuals from conducting a desired business or agricultural or industrial activities; democracy, also, prohibits the monopoly of certain jobs by certain bodies; the freedom of labor ensures, also, the right of strike for anyone who wants, but it does not prevent the government to regulate the laws of labor (trade or industry) for the sake of the public interest.

are vital and lively atmospheres unlike that which are characterized by stagnation and immobility; they allow for creating new ideas and help them to grow in order to reap its fruit later, and consequently contribute to bring more well-being to the individuals and society.

-Democracy has positive advantages for the comprehensive development, prosperity of the state and the consolidation of the values of freedom, justice and equality in the society; democracy in its deep essence is a daily practice affects all aspects of life, a way of thinking, behavior and dealing and is not vicious forms of spirit or just a manifestation; it is, in this sense, not a legal form only, and not temporary state, or gift or grant from one, but it is a fundamental permanent rights, rules and traditions



for all and apply to all without any discrimination .

The structure of democracy is determined by the way that regulates our relations with each other , starting from the family and through social relations to the ways by which we elect our representatives in the leadership institutions that make decisions, and the methods by which we establish our political parties and other civil institutions , that ensure communication with the society on one hand , and the effective supervision on the ruling power on the other hand .

Finally , the world , today , is witnessing framing and establishment for democratic methods in the political approach , as great powers put within their priorities the cooperation and dealing with the democratically elected governments , therefore , we have to work to consolidate the democratic approach , so that we can keep up with the pace of development in all political, economic, scientific and social aspects , which are the pillar of stability and development in the world.

Recommendations: -

1. Introduction of some improvements to the education system , from time to time , to keep up with modern scientific developments in order to prepare a generation able to implement the comprehensive development process.

2-conducting adequate study on the educational projects aiming at bringing awareness in education , creating an appropriate educational environment and taking advantage from local , Arabic and international experiences in order to improve education .

3-Making a comprehensive reform plan for the development of education , in coordination with all concerned authorities to prepare generations be able to support the political , economic and social structures .

4-Reviewing the philosophy of education and its educational goals to be consistent with democratic process and activating the national belonging in education , which helps to improve the comprehensive educational process.

5.Encouraging the scientific research directed to serve the societies and its development through focusing on practical scientific research and increasing the financial allocations to that end.

6- Integrating the goals of education for all within public policies , programs and activities to be committed to the framework of the global action plan to achieve the goals of education for all .

7- Application of democracy based on firm principles in accordance with certain rules that take its legitimacy from Islam , as democracy cannot work without credibility and this credibility stems from the roots of Islam.

8-Working on the development of the concept of democracy and human rights among the peoples of the two regions in accordance with sophisticated scientific educational strategies .

9-Supporting the emerging democracies and help them to grow and develop , and making legislations that work on the introduction of technological means of communication and technical development, both in the political process, or economic, educational and social processes .

10-Preparation of regulations aiming at combating all forms of extremism , sectarian discrimination , and racism , and fighting against poverty and unemployment which are considered as main reasons of chaos and instability .

11-There is need to enhance the economic development , as raising the living standard is necessary for increasing the political participation .

12 – It is important to achieve the mission of the university in maintaining its independence and to accomplish its three objectives namely :

A- service of education on the basis of quality , its outputs should be efficient for building a knowledge-based economy based on the intelligence of the human capital and suitability with development and economy of globalization .

-B- Getting benefit from research , authorship , translation and publication in building knowledge and producing technological goods and services , in order to support the national production , reduce unemployment and improve the level of living standard of people .

C – Provision of services to the society through the university's interaction with the various segments of the society (economic , political , educational and social segments) , and rendering the society's institutions with expertise and advice .

Dr. Adnan Badran, Member of Al-Ayan council , The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, ASSECAA Retreat , 21- 22 October ,2007



2- Procedural standards for building democracies

Foreword:

The concept of democracy with its multiple dimensions has raised heated debates amongst political scientists and sociologists, just as has been the case with many concepts related to the phenomenon of «state and society» involving freedom, justice and rights.

It is noted that the term “democracy” has an appeal to it, and therefore, most political systems are keen to confer the concept on themselves, no matter how practically embodied in the framework of such political systems.

It could be argued that in spite of the ambiguity inherent in the definition of democracy, democratic systems share a common quality, namely the responsibility of rulers to their own people, who exercise their oversight role through representatives chosen in competitive free and fair elections.

Accordingly, this paper will try to shed light on its main theme by highlighting the characteristics of democracy and its current situation the world over, as well as the standards to be followed for the building of democratic regimes.

1 - Anthony Jones:

He is one of the political scientists (Associate professor of sociology and international affairs at Northeastern University , Boston) who have confirmed that a democratic system is the one that contains a number of indicators, including :

- The government is being run by a one-party system or a coalition of parties that came to power through popular elections.
- Elections are held in specific periods, and the ruling party cannot alone alter the time span intervening between two elections.
- All adult citizens-males and females- residing permanently in the community are eligible to vote such elections.
- Every citizen has one single vote in each election.
- The parties that did not win in the elections have no right to use physical force or illegal means to prevent the winning party from assuming power.
- The ruling party has no right to restrict the political activities of any citizen or other parties as long as they don't seek to overthrow the government by force.



1- Characteristics of democracy:

Many political scientists have attempted to set out standards for and characteristics of democracy, which are as controversial as was the concept of democracy. We in turn will limit ourselves here to presenting two views expressed by two Western scholars given that democracy is originally a Western concept.

- There are two or more parties competing for power in each election.

2 - Samuel Huntington:

The famous American political scientist Samuel Huntington summed up the variables which many Western thinkers deemed necessary for the



establishment of democracy or democratization as follows :

- A high level of economic wealth - a relatively equal distribution of income and wealth - the existence of market economy - economic growth and social modernization – the existence of a feudal aristocracy at one stage of the history of society - the absence of feudalism - the existence of strong bourgeois , strong middle class - high education rate and low illiteracy rate - low level of civil violence - political leaders faithfully committed to democracy .

2- State of democracy in the world

We state on good authority that most political systems are, one way or another, heading towards democratization, as they have sought to carry out political reforms geared towards the achievement of democracy. Though such reforms might be narrow in scope , or were conducted out of the desire of such political systems themselves (at the top level) or stemmed from either popular or foreign pressures, they indicate , at least partially, that all world political systems seek to adopt a closer approach to democracy. Thus, democracy has become a sine qua none for recognizing the legitimacy of political systems.

Therefore, we notice that most non-democratic political systems speak of democracy as if it were an essential component of their fabric.

Historically speaking, many political systems have opted for democracy, as the world has seen what Samuel Huntington labeled “waves of democratization”, which he divided into three waves -the first wave was prevalent during the period 1828 -1926, the second spanned the period 1943-1964, while the third wave prevailed in the 1970s and started with the collapse of the military rule in Portugal in 1974.

During these periods, many countries came to adopt democracy. The researcher argues that the so-called Arab spring that emerged in 2011 is the fourth wave of democratization. The United Nations has voiced a similar opinion, stating that what has happened in the Arab region is a historic turning point in the march of democracy. This is not only because of the changes that have occurred in the political systems, but also because of the process that led to such changes and involved the youth movements that stood as the real advocates of change, in addition to the impact of education and modern communication means.

The reality on ground does not suggest that all world countries are adopting democracy with its three levels- full democracy, flawed democracy and hybrid democracy. The French political scientist, Maurice Duverger , believes that the

majority of nations are not democratic, rather they adopt the one-party system with a degree of despotism.

As for the status quo of democracy at the global level, several international reports, including a report from the Economist Intelligence Unit of the British magazine «The Economist», a highly credible magazine, which was titled «Democracy Index 2010 :Democracy in retreat,» indicated that 26 out of 167 world countries have full democracy. These are led by Norway followed by Iceland and Sweden.

According to the report, 53 countries have flawed democracy. Cape Verde, which ranked 27th at the global level, topped the list of these countries followed by Greece, Italy and South Africa. It indicated that the number of countries with «hybrid democracy “« was put at 33. These were led by Hong Kong that ranked 80th on the whole index, followed by Bolivia and Singapore.

The report highlighted that the number of the non-democratic countries stood at 55 , with Madagascar, which ranked 113th, topping the list, followed by Kuwait that ranked 114th, while North Korea was at the bottom of the list i.e. (167th on the whole index). The Economist Intelligence Unit’s Democracy index, a 0 to 10 scale, is based on the ratings for many indicators grouped in these categories - the electoral process and pluralism, functioning of government, political participation, political culture, and civil liberties. Each category has a rating on a 0 to 10 scale, and the overall index of democracy is the simple average of the five category indexes.

Moreover, Freedom House , in a report on the state of liberties in 2012, has stated that 96% of Western European are free , 4% are «partly free», while 6% of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries are free, 22% partially free, and 72% are not free.

The number of countries with electoral democracy amounted to 117 out of 195 in 2011, an increase of only two countries compared to 2010. It is worth noting that the number of countries with electoral democracy in 1988 was 69 only.

3- Criteria for Democracy Building:

As we know Democracy or “ the rule of people by themselves “ either , directly by the people themselves without intermediary (direct democracy) , or through the election of representatives (representative democracy) ; it may be , also , a combination of these two methods by the parliament and the people , each has its functions and is called (semi –direct democracy) .



The criteria of democracy are complex and intertwined system of political, socio-economic and cultural benchmarks that take a long period of time in order to be applied.

Undoubtedly, the literal application of these



standards would lead to the attainment of full and ideal democracy. However, this can never be hundred percent achieved. We don't seek to achieve neither full democracy (an ideal objective by itself), nor flawed democracy. Instead, we seek to escape the specter of authoritarian regimes as a tactical goal and then attain the other levels of democracy as a strategic long-term objective. The proposed standards are:

- 1 - a democratic constitution approved through referendum.
- 2 - A clear separation of the three powers.
- 3 - Peaceful transfer of power.
- 4 - An electoral system that reflects the will of all voters.
- 5 - Political pluralism.
- 6 -pro-active civil society.

The following is a brief description of these criteria:

1-Democratic Constitution approved by referendum:

To build a democratic system, there should be a social contract between the ruler and ruled, as well as a constitution regulating and delineating such a contract. The constitution must be accurately and unequivocally crafted in order to be expressive of people's will. All social segments should be involved in drafting the constitution in such a manner that makes it effective in protecting liberties and determining rights and responsibilities. The constitution shall serve as the key pillar for building modern nation states with institutions respecting the rule of law.

Further, the constitution must be expressive of people's civilization and their aspirations, accurately charting a course for the future. It

should not only express the majority opinion, rather it should be an inclusive framework for all, regardless of varying visions, ideas, and orientations. In other words, the Constitution should be all-encompassing umpire that settles any disagreements. as well as it should be applicable.

2-A clear separation of the three powers:

In a sense, democracy calls for peaceful transfer of power, meaning that rulers assume power in a smooth, peaceful and safe way.

A lot of matters are associated with the peaceful transfer of power, including:

1-The peaceful transfer of power shall be possible and attainable on the part of people and not confined to group, area or class. In other words, competition for power shall be possible among the people as long as there are favorable conditions.

2-The peaceful transfer of power shall express the genuine will of people, in the sense that voters determine who will be the ruler, and none has the right to curb this will.

3-Satisfaction with the results of voting as long as it was free, fair and impartial.

4-There are non-democratic systems, be they parliamentary or presidential, in which elections are conducted regularly. However, such elections are formal and counterfeited in its content, and therefore they cannot be considered as a criterion for democracy.

5-The peaceful transfer of power means that there is specific constitutional terms for the position of the president of the country, which are specified in most of the democratic countries with two terms.

3- The criteria for separation of powers:

This standard means that power should not be monopolized by the minority so as to avoid tyranny. It is one of the bases of building democratic systems, which we cannot do away with. The separation of the three powers (the executive, the legislative and the judiciary) must be determined upon the preparation of constitutions, and they shall include an accurate description of functions and duties of each authority to ensure that there is no overlap in such functions or duties. The separation of powers does not mean lack of cooperation and harmony among the three authorities. We don't want an entire separation of powers like the one practiced in the United States, but we want a flexible separation of powers that enables these authorities to do their tasks strongly and effectively through close cooperation.

4- An electoral system expressing the will of all voters:

The electoral system which is appropriate for



one country is not necessary to be appropriate for another country. If the individual system fits one country, it is not necessary to be appropriate for another, and then the appropriate electoral system for a country is that system which takes into account the situation of the country in all the political, economic, social and cultural aspects. Whether the electoral system depends on the numerical majority system or on the relative numerical ratio, the most important thing is that the vote shall not go in vain.

5-Political pluralism :

Difference and diversity are a divine tenet, and it is not possible that all opinions and perceptions are the same for all people. The differences of ideas, visions, attitudes and ideologies need multiple and various methods for the sake of their application. Political pluralism includes multi-party system, multimedia and diversity of ideas and visions, all of which require a wide range of freedom of expression. If the political pluralism is not based on national basis, it will become a tool of destruction instead of a tool of building, and this condition is necessary for countries that seeks for transformation to democratic system.

6-Active Civil society :

Civil society organizations are non-governmental and non-profitable bodies. In many democratic countries, they are considered to be supportive of and complementary to governments. The international bank refers to the presence of more than 60 thousands international non-governmental organizations in the world.

In conclusion, we emphasize that as far as the democracy needs a clear, specified and applicable criteria, it needs, also, a popular and official will; it needs a restructuring of supreme national interests in which the interests of peoples shall be above all considerations.

The Western model is not all good, but it has its faults and disadvantages; the regimes which seek to apply the western model have to get benefits from Western democracy, and mix it with cultural heritage and national experience, particularly in terms of how to make democracy a daily behavior, practiced by the rulers and the ruled.

Transition from non – democratic to democratic systems takes a long time; the Western model has achieved its objectives only with patience, and then the slow and coherent steps towards democracy is better than running fast towards it, as this may lead to falling, again, into the trap of tyranny.

Dr. Saud Mohammed Al-Shawoosh, Assistant Professor of Political Science Center for Political and Strategic Studies - University of Sana'a

Chapter Four: Peace & Conflict Resolution

Exploring the causes and dynamics of armed conflicts in Africa

Conflict is inevitable part of human nature as people have been involved in it since the beginning of time. Some scholars such as Faletti (2006) even argue that conflict is not all the time negative in the sense that it can also be constructive. In this sense, “conflicts can be used to explore different solutions to a problem and stimulate creativity by bringing emotive and non-rational arguments into the open while deconstructing longstanding tension. As destructive, on the other hand, conflicts are used mainly to inflict injuries on, neutralize or subvert the aspirations of opponent. As such, it can hinder progress in the society, encourage unfriendly behaviours and enhance win-by-all-means-necessary attitudes”. The conflicts to be analyzed are destructive ones and focus only in African environment as Africa has since the end of the cold war experienced more violent armed conflicts and has endured more direct and indirect casualties of war than any other continent of the world (Bureau of Intelligence and Research, 2001).



It is about exploration and discussion of violent and armed conflicts and its impacts with particular reference to how the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) contribute to the prevalence of these conflicts in the continent. The work examines four specific themes i.e. the nature and challenges of conflicts to Africa's development, the general causes of armed conflicts in Africa, the exploration of challenges of arms trafficking and violent conflicts in the continent as well as the various strategies for conflicts' management and prevention in Africa.

1. Nature of conflicts in Africa

The armed conflicts in Africa have mainly been intra-state and interstate conflicts. According to a consultation document of UK Department for International Development, it was observed that there are four distinct types of conflicts from the post cold war period till date; there is the conventional interstate conflict also referred to as wars of attrition. Eritrea- Ethiopia war can be a good illustration of this type of war. Secondly, there are factional intra-state



conflicts characterized by opportunistic engagement rather than strategic one. In this type of conflict, which most of the time occur as civil wars, issues such as struggle to control areas of commerce or resources are the main motivation. A good example of such conflict nature may be the Sierra Leonean and Liberia wars over controlling mineral resources such as diamonds.

The third type of conflict relates to the ethnic based conflicts which may result to acts of genocide. In this context, the Great Lakes Region is a good illustration.

These intra state conflicts are facilitated by major factors such as the irrational political boundaries; the land shortages and environmental stress and ethnically differentiated access to power and wealth.

2. General causes of armed conflicts

There are many factors responsible for the outbreak and continued prevalence of

violent conflicts in Africa. These causes or sources of conflicts in Africa reflect the diversity and complexities of the continent's historic and contemporary dynamics.

Some are internal, some reflect the dynamics of a particular sub-region, and some

have prominent international dimensions. Despite these differences, the sources of conflicts are linked by a number of themes and experiences (Cleveland and United Nations Environment Programme, 2007). The major root causes of conflicts include political, economic and social inequalities, extreme poverty, economic stagnation, poor government services, high unemployment, environmental degradation and individual economic incentives to fight (Stewards, 1998). In order to effectively respond or address Africa's conflicts, it requires agreement and understanding of the causes; it is then necessary to make a distinction between the root causes of the conflicts and the secondary causes.

a. Root causes of the conflicts

Among the root causes, there is the problem of inequality between groups which is probably the foremost cause of conflicts in Africa on the social, economic and political level. In Africa, unequal access to political power perpetuates a similar lack of access to resources, revenue and social amenities. Cases of Rwanda, Liberia and Sierra Leone can be mentioned here.

Moreover, the collapse of state institutions has often led to internal and regional conflicts as the case of former Zaire under Mobutu Sese Seko. The collapse arises out of a long degenerative process mostly characterized by predatory government operating through coercion, corruption and politicians who want

to secure political power and control of resources. The State is no longer able to provide or sustain basic services or security to its citizens and loses legitimacy leading to a breakdown of law and order (Africa Policy and Economics Department, 2001).

Closely linked to this cause is the problem of continuous economic decline occurring in different forms ranging from natural catastrophe to major shifts in terms of trade (case of the 1974 Ethiopian famine as main cause of the overthrow of Haile Selassie's Government and the violence that followed).

Another cause to Africa's conflicts is wealth associated natural resources over controlling existing scarce or abundant natural resources. The most common conflicts of scarcity occur over control of grazing or water rights especially by nomadic people. Also, countries with abundant oil or mineral deposit face high risk of conflicts over control of these resources as the cases in Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

The roots of violence in Africa may also be observed in rapid population growth beyond the carrying capacity of the environment which can create resource scarcities and violence.

b. Secondary causes

High levels of unemployment among young men and facing low education may create a high risk of conflicts facilitated by the availability of small arms



and light weapons.

3. Challenges of small arms and light weapons (SALW) trafficking and conflicts Arms transfer and trafficking remain major security problem in Africa. The continent continues to have the greatest number of armed conflicts in the world. The increasing rate of conflict due to the proliferation of SALWs is traced after the Cold War Period when manufacturers saw Africa as a potential and attractive market for their wares (Johnson, Marsh & Thurin, 2005).

- Factors encouraging the proliferation of small arms.

There are many factors that contribute to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons; but the



major ones include the collapse of the Soviet Union, International oil piracy, struggle over control of the resources, refugee crises and the local manufacture of arms.

a. Collapse of the Soviet Union:

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, many Eastern European countries found themselves with huge stockpiles of Soviet-era arms that were surplus to their new requirements. Hence, conflicts in Africa such



as Angola, the Great Lake regions and West Africa were provided by attractive small arms markets from these countries to clear their old stocks and earn much revenues needed for investment in the transformation of their countries to a market economy.

b. International oil piracy

Arms trafficking are a complex and convoluted business involving an array of brokers, banks transportation companies and transshipment points. As part of this process, several international oil piracy rings have emerged to facilitate illegal and shady arms deals and transfers. Sometimes, they barter arms directly for oil. These groups pose serious problems as they serve as source for illegal and non state actors to procure arms that are used most of the time in the intra state conflicts.

c. Struggle over resource conflicts:

In Africa, there are constant struggles over revenues from natural resources and how such revenues should be shared. These struggles also contribute to the spread of small arms and light weapons in Africa. Most of the weapons used during conflicts are acquired through exchange of these natural resources for weapons as observed in the case of Sierra Leone, Liberia or Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

d. Refugees Crises

Proliferation of SALWs is also facilitated by movements of refugees fleeing from wars and areas of conflict. Some of these refugees who might have been combatants take their weapons while fleeing to safe areas and end up selling such weapons or hiring

them for illegal activities such as banditry, robbery and rebellion.

e. Local manufacturing

Many conflicts and local crimes in Africa have involved the use of locally manufactured arms ranging from knives, machetes to guns of various calibers easy to acquire. Some weapons such as machetes or knives are normally tools used for reproductive activities but can also be employed to perpetuate violence as illustrated in the Rwandan genocide.

4. Strategies for armed conflict's management and prevention in Africa

Conflict prevention is the first and necessary step to address conflicts before their management and resolution. The prevention requires addressing the root and secondary causes of conflicts in the continent. First, there is a need for all African states and their citizens to promote inclusiveness in all government institutions in view of accommodating ethnicity and inequality.

State actors should also uphold and sustain appropriate democratic values and principles such as respect for human rights, good governance and the rule of the law rather than coercion, corruption or use of force to manage and maintain power and legitimacy. Providing the required basic facilities to ensure the well being and security of their citizens should be their main concern.

Economic growth and development should be another way of preventing conflicts by a fair management of natural resources for the equal benefit and development of all communities and individuals.

Peaceful techniques and measures such as negotiation, diplomacy and mediation should be encouraged as first option in handling and resolving difficult problems, differences or dissatisfaction.

In conclusion, the African continent has suffered too much from the scourges of conflicts, natural and environmental disasters. There is huge demand and expectations for peace and democratic dividends including democratic transitions, reconciliation, reintegration and reconstruction. It is necessary for all stakeholders to work hard in view of positively addressing the numerous problems facing the continent at all levels.

Presented by Ochinya O.Ojiji, Assistant Director and Acting Director, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Abuja at the 1st Meeting of the ASSECAA Committee on Peace and Conflict Resolution held in Abuja from 11-13 December 2007.



Towards a common goal: collaborative ways of managing conflicts in Africa.

Conflict is considered as an inevitable phenomenon in all types of human relations and occurs at all levels of human life ranging from the intra-personal to the global relations of mankind. At all levels, conflicts have significant, common characteristics and dynamics; people become involved in conflicts when their interests or values are challenged or unmet by others (Yagcioglu, 1996).

Since time immemorial, communities have been competing for the ownership of various types of resources and dominance. These competitions inexorably lead individuals as well as social, political, economic, and religious groups to conflict. One can therefore say that conflict is inherent to the social, economic and political organization of mankind and can even be taken as a driver for change and development. Conflicts can be beneficial if they ultimately produce a creative element for changing societies, while achieving the goals and aspirations of individuals and groups. Conflict can be considered constructive if the outcome brings about positive changes, as demonstrated by not only apologies and compensation for the past abuse

citizens.

The topic examines then the regional dimension of conflicts with a focus on African continent.

I. Brief summary on the causes and types of African conflicts The causes of conflict in Africa are multiple and include political, economic, social and cultural causes. Conflicts can be categorized into various forms depending on the type of criteria one uses. For example, Salim (1999) cited in Bujra (2002) classifies conflicts in Africa as follows:

- Boundary and territorial conflicts,
- Civil wars and internal conflicts having international repercussions,
- Political and ideological conflicts,
- Transhumance and irredentism, and
- Secession.

Other types of conflicts include ethnic conflict, religious conflict and class-based conflict.



but also future prevention of victimization.

However, violent conflict has devastating effects to the wellbeing of mankind in every aspect. Whether from state or non-state sources, many forms of violence are subtle and embedded in political and social dynamics, which can adversely affect the development of every society. Besides, it diverts resources that could have otherwise been used productively, reflecting the undesirable nature of conflict (Alexander, 2005).

Violent conflicts that transcend national boundaries have adverse impacts on regional stability, adding a new dimension that complicates the livelihood of citizens (Marino, 1999). When violence acquires a regional dimension (an inter-state nature), the number of actors and players increases, the interests of the belligerents multiply and the resolution of the conflicts becomes complicated with multiple impacts to the security and well-being of

II. The cost of war and violence in Africa:

Africa suffers enormously from conflict and armed violence. Armed conflict costs Africa around \$18 billion per year, seriously derailing development. Compared to peaceful countries, African countries in conflict have, on average, 50 per cent more infant deaths; 15 per cent more undernourished people; life expectancy reduced by five years; 20 per cent more adult illiteracy; 2.5 times fewer doctors per patient; and 12.4 per cent less food per person (Hillier, October 2007). Moreover, between 1960 and 2005, about 1.6 million battle deaths were recorded in Africa, which constituted about 24 per cent of the global total of battle deaths (African Development Report, 2008).

The African Development Report (2008) lists the following social costs of war:

- Causes disability due to injury or increased disease



burden,

- Leaves civilians traumatized because of shootings, rape, torture and murder of family members,
- Violent conflict affects children, girls and women in various ways,
- Destroys social infrastructures such as schools, hospitals and roads.



In addition to that, armed violence leads to massive displacement of people fleeing conflict zones. According to the African Development Report (2008), Africa is home to about 12 percent of the world's population; but 31 percent of the world's refugee population originates from Africa. However, Countries in conflict or immediate post-conflict also generate a massive number of economic emigrants leaving their countries in search of a better livelihood because the economies of immediate post-conflict countries provide limited livelihood opportunities for their citizens.

III. Formal and alternative mechanisms for dealing with conflicts.

Disputes are a critical part of human relationships, and mankind has developed different mechanisms for managing disputes to maintain cohesion, economic and political stability in the life of citizens and states. The mechanisms can broadly be categorized as formal or informal. The formal mechanisms are mechanisms related to formal legal institutions while the informal ones are mechanisms that range from the traditional mechanisms with lots of variations to the broader areas of preventive diplomacy, mediation and other related activities. Litigation is the dominant method of resolving disputes in formal mechanisms. Litigation is a process of conflict resolution in a court which can be a national court or an international one created by the law of international or multilateral institutions.

Such mechanisms are useful in handling individual conflicts but constraining in addressing the multiple effects that may arise as a result of the original cause of dispute. (Agarwal, 2001).

Because of the limitations of the judicial system in providing comprehensive solutions to disputes, alternative methods of dispute resolution have developed in varying

forms.

Some of the forms of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms include negotiation which is a voluntary and informal process to reach a mutually acceptable agreement between the parties in conflict; mediation which requires the services of a neutral, third party person or institution to arrive to a consensual agreement and arbitration is a voluntary process of dispute resolution in which a neutral third party (arbitrator) renders a decision after a hearing.

Fact finding missions are also other mechanisms of resolving conflicts when the dispute arises right from the establishment of the facts on the ground. It is an informal process whereby a neutral third party is selected by the disputants to investigate the issue in dispute and submit a report or come to give evidence at another forum such as a court or arbitration. All these alternative dispute resolution mechanisms provide expedited justice and cost less when compared to the formal judicial mechanisms.



IV. Cases of African experiences of resolving political disputes and conflicts through negotiation.

Africa has been afflicted by violent conflicts which caused a heavy toll on the continent's socio-economic and political sectors, thereby adversely affecting their developmental potential and democratic possibilities. The causes of the conflicts are as complex as the challenges of resolving them.

- However, Africa has experiences of ending civil wars through negotiated and UN-monitored referendums. The 1993 referendum of Eritrea and the 2010 referendum of Southern Sudan which consecrated their independence respectively from Ethiopia and Sudan could be cited as case examples in this regard.

- There are also other experiences in Africa that exhibited peaceful resolutions of conflicts and disputes over the use and management of resources between states. In this regard, the Joint Development Zone created by Nigeria and Sao Tome to jointly develop the off-shore oil resources in the disputed maritime boundary and the creation of the Maputo Corridor to manage the Maputo port and its corridors shared by Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland are also good illustrations. The Nile Basin Initiative among the 10 riparian states of the Nile can also be taken as an innovative way of managing shared water resources.



- African experiences in resolving election related disputes through peaceful means.

With the steady decline of some of the historic causes of African conflicts, elections have emerged as one of the major recent sources of conflicts across Africa. An electoral process is normally an alternative to violence as a means of achieving governance. When an electoral process is perceived as unfair, unresponsive, or corrupt, its political legitimacy is compromised and stakeholders are motivated to go outside of the established norms to achieve their objectives (Ndulo & Lulo, 2010).

Some African countries have experienced post electoral violence but there have been good attempts at managing such problems as illustrated in the 2008 Kenyan and Zimbabwean election-related crises. The power-sharing pact between conflicting parties was the ultimate result of ending the crises in these two countries where the role of eminent African statesmen and leaders was crucial in generating momentum to resolve the problems.

- Other experiences of ending disputes include conflict prevention and early warning mechanisms. In this regard, the Conflict Early Warning System (CEWS) of the African Union and the Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) are good examples. The CEWARN Mechanism consists of seven states of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in the Horn of Africa sub-region in view of addressing the cross-border pastoral and related conflicts while the CEWS of the African Union is intended to contain crisis situations and prevent them from further escalation into large-scale violent conflict

V. The role of elected representatives in conflict prevention and peace building.

The primary role of elected representatives in any country is to enact legislation. But it is now widely accepted for them to be key actors in the field of conflict prevention and peace building. They can play the crucial role of embracing differing groups in a given country and can foster peace building and conflict prevention by setting-up the legislative and institutional framework to help prevent

conflict. Apart from controlling the executive branch of government from employing violent ways of conflict management, the representatives can also organize public hearings in various geographic areas where efforts relating to peace building are most relevant. This helps them to become more sensitive to the needs of conflict-affected communities and individuals both at national and regional levels (Al-Ali & Beydoun, 2010). Elected representatives should adopt development policies and good governance as well as decentralize powers to reduce some of the pre-conditions that could be used by unscrupulous actors to instigate conflict.

Moreover, they should play an indispensable role in strengthening the rule of law in a given country. The rule of law is able to contribute to peace building not only by building a framework of laws based on social norms, which the community will voluntarily adhere to, but also by providing stability through justice. Finally, elected representatives should develop regional relationships, in particular because the diversion of scarce resources can differ from other priority areas. This would help to prevent potential conflicts at regional levels (O'Brien, 2005).

In conclusion, African conflicts and armed violence are caused by multifaceted socio-economic and political factors such as boundary and territorial conflicts, civil wars and internal conflicts having international repercussions; political and ideological conflicts; transhumance, irredentism and secession etc... These conflicts have contributed to the high levels of casualties such as human deaths, refugees, internally displaced persons, losses of economic production etc...

However, Africa has experienced several mechanisms of ending different types of conflicts that can be an inspiration for other parts of the world facing crises.

Prepared by Mulugeta Gebrehiwot & Getachew Zeru from the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University, at the meeting of peace and conflict resolution in Africa and the Arab World held in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia from 23-24 February 2013



Chapter Five: Women Parliamentarians

Role of Women Parliamentarians in Peace and Security in Africa and the Arab World.

The role of women Parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab World is situated in the governance agenda as their primary function to represent the concerns of women and other marginalized people; hence to advance the society. Moreover, the representation of women in political life and leadership positions is an integral part of sustainable development and democracy for any country. However, although the participation of women in the government is irrefutable, they still face numerous obstacles in achieving representation in governance. The focus is on the examination of political participation of women in Africa and the Arab World, the various challenges they face in politics and decision making and its incidence in their role and participation in peace and security agenda. Most of the time, the challenges include cultural factors, the stereotyped image of women, women's low self confidence, lack of coordination among women's organizations etc. These challenges require the consolidation of all efforts with great belief in women's capabilities to lead and shoulder the responsibilities in the building of their nations.

Women issues at the global level:



Women issues have gained much attention in the international arena. Already, the year of 1975 was proclaimed the international year for women that laid the basis for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) during the first international Conference on women held in Mexico in 1979 and followed by other international conferences on women. However, following the persistent discrimination against women and their marginalization in all aspects of public affairs including peace and security, the trend has accelerated in the nineties with the Beijing Conference in 1995 which paved the way to strengthen women's participation in decision making process and higher positions by adopting a Platform for Action. Moreover, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) in Goal 3 highlights the importance of promoting gender equality and women empowerment.

The African and Arab regions did not escape the global debate on women issues and have experienced major changes in political, economic and social development and democratic

process. However, the democratization in the two regions has faced a lot of challenges including regional instability and conflicts, economic imbalances, lack of freedom to engage in a meaningful democratic process. Likewise, the same challenges delayed efforts aimed at promoting women's empowerment and equal participation in decision making such as their contribution in peace and security.

It is therefore important for women especially women Parliamentarians to be part of the processes that improve government accountability and responsiveness in dealing with issues that cause conflicts and creating better understanding of the challenges and strategies for peace building.

Women in Parliament in Africa and the Arab World: critical mass According to the feminist political scientists, the critical mass is referred to the need for a significant minority of women to affect political change. The extent of women's impact will depend very much on the number of women in parliament motivated to represent women's issues and concerns as it has been observed that the presence of even one woman will alter male behavior. West European experience shows that where women MPs have a mission to affect change, even small numbers can produce significant results. While the presence of even one woman can make a difference, long term significant change will be realized with a sufficient number of women in parliament who are motivated to represent women's concerns.

Rules strategy

This strategy consists of helping to maximize women's impact on the legislative process. The strategy consists of three parts which are learning the rules, using the rules and changing the rules such as customs, conventions, informal practices and specific regulations that govern the way a legislature functions. This strategy of learning, using and changing the rules is based on the belief that there is a need for change and that the objective in electing women MPs is to secure change. Four types of change that can make a difference to women have been identified by experts:

- 1- Institutional/procedural change: This consists of making parliament more "woman-friendly" through measures to promote greater gender awareness.
- 2- Representation change: It involves specific actions to promote women's continued and enhanced access to legislature. These include to encourage women candidates; the promotion of sex equality legislation, parity or equality regulations. Representation change also consists of parliamentary actions designed to place women in important parliamentary positions and to secure their presence in the government.
- 3- Impact/influence on output: It refers to the "feminization" of legislation and other policy outputs, i.e. laws and policy to be in women's favour which include to put women's issues on the agenda and to ensure that all legislation is woman-friendly or gender sensitive.
- 4- Discourse change: This involves changes both inside and outside of parliament. Not only should efforts be made to



alter parliamentary language so that women's perspectives are normalized, it is also necessary to make use of the parliamentary platform to alter public attitudes and to change the discourse of politics so that a political woman becomes as normal concept as a political man.

Women Parliamentarians and Peace building

Peace building is another area where women are encouraged to actively take part given the impact of armed conflict on women and their marginalization from policy decisions in peace building.

With the unanimous adoption of the United Nations Council Resolution 1325 on women, Peace and Security in 2000, the International Community recognized the contributions women can make in the field of conflict prevention, peace keeping, conflict resolution and peace building and focused on the importance of their equal and full participation as active agents in peace and security not as conflicts' victims.

Other four resolutions on women, peace and security have so far been adopted by the UN Security Council including Security Council Resolutions 1820 (2008); 1888 (2009); 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010); these show how the body in

Above all, Women MPs as legislators should play a major role in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and other resolutions pertaining to women, peace and security issues. Since the adoption of UNSCR 1325 few countries have developed National Action Plans for its implementation due mostly to the lack of political will at the national and regional levels, to the myth that the Resolution is an imposition of an external agenda. The contribution of women MPs lies on pushing governments to adopt all mechanisms of UNSCR 1325 implementation. The failure to operationalize UNSCR 1325 is a failure by Women MPs.

Moreover, the women parliamentarians' forums should be action oriented, like adopting a plan for the development of women MPs National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in countries where the governments are not moving forward on the issues.

In conclusion, Women participation in all aspects of peace process is very important in any society. Women's perspectives of armed conflicts tend to be completely different from those of men as peace is holistic and covers many things. For women, peace is also safe access to health care, HIV/



charge of maintaining international peace and security (UN Security Council) is interested in participation of women in peace and security agenda and the implementation of these resolutions at the government level.

Women parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab World as women leaders and decision makers in the governance agenda have a big responsibility in peace processes and dialogue, although they are underrepresented in local, national and international conflict resolution strategies. They have to work with the different sides involved in a conflict to help them develop an understanding of what can be done differently and create opportunities for the people involved in the conflict to come together in view of discussing conflicting issues.

Their role is also to work with other women and women's organization in the affected countries to empower and help them take more active roles in addressing the effects of violence.

AIDS prevention, clean drinking water, fighting illiteracy and poverty, combating domestic violence etc. However, to achieve these goals, women have to be empowered by overcoming all the obstacles impeding them to participate in politics and decision making. Women MPs have the power to promote these goals for sustainable peace sake and the responsibility to implement at the national level, all the UN resolutions pertaining to women, peace and security.

Moreover, in their struggle, women should work with men as they cannot gain their rights without men and men will not live in a just and peaceful society until women are fully included and accepted as equals. Men should know that they miss a lot when they don't include women's voices in peace building processes.

Presented by Joseph Chilengi, Chairperson of African Union Civil Society Steering Committee at the Second Meeting of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab World held in Khartoum, Sudan from 18-19 March 2012.



Comparative study of the contributions of women to national development in other regions and the Africa/Arab scenario.

The concern for women contributions in national activities has gained much attention on the global agenda especially in the recent years with the growing awareness of the importance of gender issues.

The International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, established a new consensus on two fundamental points i.e. empowering women and improving their status are essential to the achievement of the full potential of economic, political and social development and empowering women is an important end in itself. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, non-governmental organizations pushed for understanding the link between women's issues and sustainable development. At the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, women's rights were finally accepted as issues of international human rights.

In all those forums, the issue of women empowerment

providing social amenities like good education, pipe borne water etc.” (Wiki Answers). By this meaning, development is then a process not a level as a country in the lower rung of the ladder today can move up tomorrow by juggling and harnessing its factors of production and improving its situation by providing good education and other social amenities such as health care delivery to its citizens.

National development require achieving mostly economic development as the latter include not only economic growth but also the ability to achieve structural changes to bring about structural transformation like appropriate policies, system of governance, markets, attitudinal changes etc. National (economic) development involves improvements in a variety of indicators such as literacy rates, life expectancy, and poverty rates.

Women and National Development

Very little attention is given to the immense role of women in society. However researches have shown that in terms of societal development and well being, the crucial role of women is even the *raison d'être* for the so called high-profile contribution of men to



was not described as the subject of special sessions but as an accepted crucial element in any strategy aimed at solving economic and environmental problems.

The topic assesses the position of African and the Arab regions in comparison with other worlds' regions in terms of the contributions of women to national development while highlighting also some primordial prejudices that have affected the status of women in the history and that have contributed from time immemorial to hinder the advancement of women and their consequent contribution to national development even up to today.

A note on national development National development is described as “the ability of a country to improve the social welfare of the people, e.g. by

economy, education, politics, social services etc. Hajo Sani has summarized the role of women in national development in Africa as in other part of the world into a tripod of values – production, reproduction and communal activities as they work as mothers, wives, doing domestic chores, farming and traveling etc...

Normally, the degree of women's contribution to national development is directly proportional to the advancement of women in the country in terms of education, freedom and equality, gender parity and equity, employment opportunity, availability and access to healthcare, etc. According to the 1994 world surveys on the role of women in development, it is stated that “where women have advanced, economic growth has usually been steady; where women have been restricted, there has been stagnation”.



It is then logical to say that the world would have improved if a set of traditional, cultural values and other prejudices such as patriarchal stereotypes had not held women down for long time.

Brief history of women subjugation

Throughout history, women have been treated as inferior to men. Yet Aristotle, one of the most famous philosophers who contributed to shape the conscience of humankind, described women as defective or incomplete men, and as quasi monsters. This kind of description of women permeated the psyche of other philosophers and great thinkers as reflected for example in Freud's 19th century psychoanalytical theories about female sexuality. Females, he maintained, were mere matter; males were spirit and mind, pregnant women were merely vessels or passive incubators for the embryos formed from the male seed alone. He regarded women as unfit for freedom or political action, passive by nature and subject to the rule of their husbands.

As western traditions are patriarchal, the impact of this situation is that the West exported its patriarchal heritage as part of their colonial policies in many

disadvantage in matters of national development.

Since then, so much has been achieved in reversing the deep seated prejudices and practices but much more still needs to be done. The fact is that in the struggle to free themselves from the shackles, women in the developed regions, Latin America and the Caribbean, and some part of Asia and Pacific have been luckier in the gradual break-away. This accounts for their higher contribution to national development of their regions and the consequent better and higher development of the regions than Africa and the Arab world.

Comparative Analysis of the contribution of Africa and Arab Women to National Development viz-a-viz Women of other Regions of the World.

From time immemorial women by their nature and upbringing have been physically, culturally and legally disposed to utilizing their ability to influence, control and contribute to policies that affect their lives and that of the society where they live. They have shown determination and achieved results where men have wavered. This women ability is manifested in the field of economy, politics, business, education



parts of the world where women were already empowered by traditional system of their societies. Men were incorporated into the colonial system to the detriment of women with the effect that men were politically powerful after colonialism as pointed out by Hajo Sani.

The same system of segregation against women is observed in the Jewish and pre-Islamic Arabia traditions where women were destined by "nature and vocation" for motherhood or simply treated as commodity or property.

The above examples represent the general background to the subjugation of women the world over and in particular among Africa and Arab countries. As a result, all women from all regions operate from the background of a common denominator of

and social services.

1. Economy

The economic contribution of women in the national development is visible in the area of agriculture, industry and service sectors.

a) Agriculture:

Agriculture is the sector where African and Arab women have played a pivotal role in swelling the performances of their respective national economies. In Africa and in particular, sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture productive activities such as cultivating, sowing, planting, selling and buying as well as harvesting are predominantly undertaken by women. They are also engaged in extensive food processing and storage. Empirical data reveal that "women are



responsible for 70 per cent of food storage, 95 percent of food processing, 50 percent of animal husbandry and 60 per cent of agricultural marketing.”

The trend of women’s participation in agricultural production by Arab women shows a significant disparity in favour of African women. A survey carried out by the United Nations for sex participation in agriculture in 1994 shows that the percentage of women labour force in agriculture outstrips that of men in Africa and few Arab world standing at 67 percent to 64 percent in Nigeria, 81 percent to 71 percent in Ethiopia, 69 percent to 22 percent in Iran. The survey further indicate that most Arab countries have more men work force in agriculture than women, e.g. 16 percent of women to 34 percent of men in Saudi Arabia, 1 percent of women to 11 percent of men in Jordan and 3 percent of women to 60 percent of men in Afghanistan.

The percentage of women labour force in other regions in relation to agriculture falls far below their African counterparts. The same 1994 survey shows that only 2 percent of women in Canada, 1 percent in Denmark and 2 percent in Netherlands engage in agriculture related production.

b) Industrial Sector

Women in Africa and Arab world make significant contribution to the industrial sector of the economy, in developing countries to which both regions belong.

The small scale industries are the second largest employers of female labour force in most African countries. In Nigeria, according to the 1995 United Nations report, 60 percent to 70 percent of women are engaged in small scale industry. Activities in this sector that attract women’s participation include cloth making, soap and detergent, food processing, shoe making, knitting, textile/tailoring, among others.

Women in Arab region also dominate small scale industries as their African counterpart due to their monopoly of home based industries such as spinning, dying, textile and embroidery.

In comparison with women in other world, African/ Arab women show higher presence and contribution in rural, informal small scale industries, while women in the developed world have upper hand in representation and contribution in secondary and tertiary sector of industries due to the high industrialization of their countries.

c) Service Industry

In service industry, the developed world maintains a common trend with the Arab region showing a general dominance of women work force. Africa’s trend does not follow a regular or defined pattern. Thus while more men are involved in service industry in Mauritania, Liberia, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire and

Botswana, there are more women in service industry in Nigeria, Namibia, Mauritius, Egypt and Algeria. In countries like Chad, Libya, Ethiopia and Eritrea, the percentage of men to women workforce in this area run neck-to-neck.

2. Politics and Business

Africa and Arab women have made varying contribution to the growth and advancement of good governance among their nations. A comparison with other more developed regions, however, shows a marked disparity in favour of the more developed regions.

Arab women who were formerly underrepresented in parliaments in Arab states are gaining more representations as Arab states liberalize their political system. In 2005, the International Parliamentary Union said that 6.5 percent of MPs in the Arab world were women, compared with 3.5 percent in 2000. In Tunisia, nearly 2.3 percent of members of parliament were women. However, the Arab country with the largest parliament, Egypt, had only around four per cent female representation in parliament.

In 2006, women in the Gulf Cooperative Council states achieved a significant breakthrough in terms of participating in parliamentary election, but the success of female candidates varied across the region. In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), women stood for election for the first time in the country’s history in that year. Although just one female candidate from Abu Dhabi was directly elected, the government appointed a further eight women to the 40 seat federal legislature, giving women a 22.5 percent share of the seats, far higher than the world average of 17.0 percent. In Kuwait, women participated in election for the first time, but none won seats. Bahrain elected its first and only MP in 2006.

Unlike their Arab counterpart, African women have been less successful in politics. In general, their representative at all levels of politics has been scanty compared to males. This is because the domain of public life has traditionally been associated with men. The role of women in politics in comparison with men has been variously described as insignificant. In Nigeria for instance, the result of the Third Republic election in 1999 showed that out of 355 members of the House of Representatives, only 12 members, representing 3.4 percent were women while only 3 out of 108 senators (2.8 percent) were women.

The situation in Africa and Arab compare unfavorably with that of Western Europe. By 1918, one woman had held elective post in Great Britain, eight in 1923 and fourteen in 1929. As at 1994, Austria has 21 percent of its lower chamber or parliament as women Denmark, 33 percent, Finland 39 percent, Sweden 34 percent and Luxemburg 20 percent. Only two countries in Africa, Seychelles and South Africa have



27 percent and 25 percent respectively. None of the countries in Arab region made at least 20 percent bench mark representation.

3. Professions

Generally the contribution of Africa and Arab women in professions such as medicine, law, engineering, military service, architecture, journalism, teaching, accounting, nursing etc. depends on their advancement in education. Thus, the role of African and Arab women in professional practice cannot be assessed without considering the impact and access of women to formal education.

Educational opportunity for women came very late as cultural practices ensured that young girls remain at home for domestic activities while the boys went to school. Even when girls started going to school, they had to drop to enable boys continue whenever a choice had to be made as a result of lack of funds for formal education.

However, despite the late exposure to formal education and the continued lack of free access due to economic stress and lack of compulsory free education, women in some countries like Nigeria, have made remarkable contribution in the professions such as medicine, legal, teaching and research professions.

So much contribution and progress have been made by African and Arab women in various professions but the disparity gap between them and the women in developed world still remains very high.

There are other factors that add to the remarkable contribution of women to national development all over the world such as women's and men's work and time use, as for women, paid work, household and child responsibilities are combined together with effect of spending more working hours than men. Moreover life expectancy is in favour of women; which means that they remain active labour force after the death of the aged men.

In conclusion, women play a pivotal role in promoting national development in all aspects of life despite some prejudices that have affected their status long time ago. Everyone has to bear in mind that the level of development of any country is directly proportional to the advancement of its womenfolk. And this advancement can only be achieved when all the prejudices, stereotypes and politics of stagnation and subjugation of women give way to gender equity, social justice and equal opportunities for men and women in the national issues.

Presented by Ukwakwe Abugu, Esq, Senior Lecturer, Department of Public and International Affairs, Faculty of Law, University of Abuja at the Meeting of women Parliamentarians In Africa and the Arab World held in Abuja from 6-7 October 2007

Part Four: Resolutions & Recommendations issued by ASSECAA

Retreat Resolutions & Recommendations

The following is a summary of the resolutions and recommendations from ASSECAA's retreat held from 2006-2013 in several member states, including the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and Republic of Burundi.

The retreat offers a veritable forum for sharing invaluable views and seasoned opinions on a wide range of socio-economic and political issues at the regional and international levels. It affords the Association a rare event of listening to proposals from scholars, statesmen and public policy analysts on how ASSECAA can be strengthened to contribute to the betterment of Africa and Arab world and consequently achieve avowed objectives of the Association. The retreat usually comes up with a communiqué detailing the program's recommendations and resolutions.

2006 RETREAT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SENATES, SHOORA AND EQUIVALENT COUNCILS IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD, HELD IN ABUJA, NIGERIA 5TH – 6TH JUNE

The following resolutions, based on the papers and the contributions of delegates were made:

- (i) Global effort to maintain international peace and security must contend with three major challenges, namely;
 - (a) the phenomenon of globalization;
 - (b) the question of international political decision-making;
 - (c) the problem of corruption.

When there is internal peace in all member states of the international community, there is bound to be international peace.

- (ii) In the light of the achievements

of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in which ASSECAA is now an observer, there is need for more states to affiliate themselves to IPU as the best plausible avenue for participating effectively in the global project of actualizing universal peace.

- (iii) African Parliamentarians should adopt the following African economic initiatives; the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Conference on Security, Stability, Development



and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA).

(iv) It was a general consensus of the delegates that the issues in globalization must be critically re-examined.

(v) It was also recognized that within Africa and the Arab World, there is need to strive for educational, social and cultural reforms and developments

the legislatures in ensuring the effective and transparent implementation of laws and resolutions passed by the legislatures.

(xi) The Association:

(a) noted that a durable peace effort has been started in the Republic of Sudan;

Nigerian Senate Headquarters



through identifying, analyzing and appreciating the impediments to such reforms.

(vi) It was a general consensus of delegates that with the achievement of educational goals in Africa and the Arab World, the parliaments will be able to crystallize strategies towards removing impediments to educational, social and cultural reforms.

(vii) It was agreed that ASSECAA should play a pivotal role in stimulating foreign relations and economic cooperation amongst its member states.

(viii) Delegates also agreed that the role of the legislature in Africa and the Arab World is very crucial in fostering development due to the inter-relationship of the legislature with the executive and judiciary through law-making processes and their effective implementation. Accordingly, it was emphasized that ASSECAA legislatures must develop adequate structures for effective performance of these roles.

(ix) Delegates also agreed that regional integration presupposes communication among national groupings with disparate cultures and world views. For regional integration to become a reality, architects of the effort must become aware of the cultural baggage they bring to the table. They must deal with those culture-bound inertia, which present unique challenges to group dynamics. Their various interests must be properly harnessed and managed for effective group cohesion to eschew unhealthy inter-group conflict and competition.

(x) Delegates also emphasized the importance of the supervisory and oversight functions of

(b) expressed solidarity with the African Union initiative to resolve the long and costly conflict in Sudan;

(c) urged Africans and Arabs, wherever they live together to respect one another's culture and rights and pursue honest means of livelihood;

(d) called upon the IMF, Paris Club and other creditor countries and Associations to understand the hard economic conditions of some African and Arab debtor countries;

(e) resolved to exert influence on African and Arab governments to contribute substantially to the recovery of the Sudan nation and the establishment of lasting peace in the country;

(xii) The Association regretted the worsening political situation in Somalia and urged all parties to the conflict to eschew bitterness and contribute to the restoration of peace in the country;

(xiii) The Association noted with regret the continuing conflict in Iraq and other parts of the Middle East, particularly between Palestine and Israel and urged all parties to the conflict to respect the United Nations resolutions and ensure a speedy resolution of the conflict.

(xiv) Delegates would want to place on record their sincere and profound gratitude to the following:

(a) the Government and people of Yemen for hosting ASSECAA's headquarters and for their continuing efforts to support the Association;

(b) the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for hosting this Retreat;



(c) the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, its President and other Principal Officers for the generous hospitality extended to ASSECAA delegates to the Retreat;

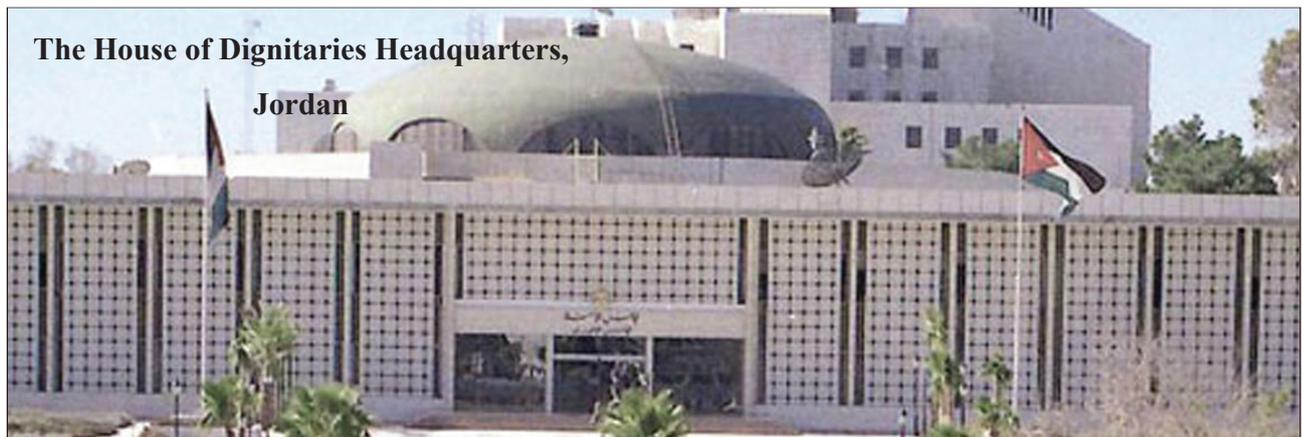
(d) His Excellency, Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, Speaker of the Shoura Council of the Republic of Yemen and the Chairman of ASSECAA for his able leadership of the Association and

(e) The Secretary General of ASSECAA and his staff for ably piloting the affairs of ASSECAA and the Local Organizing Committee for the preparation and organization of this Retreat.

4. The Retreat adjourned sine die on 6th June 2006 at 5.10 pm.

*The General Secretariat Association of Senates, Shoura and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World
6th June 2006*

Resolutions from the Retreat held in the Dead Sea Region , Jordan



The Retreat resolved that to create the conducive environment for the attainment of the millennium development goals, the regions of Africa and the Arab world should:

1.Re-orientate national priorities on development by engaging more urgently on policies and programmes that have immediate and direct bearing on poverty alleviation and combating of famine.

2.Development policies should focus significantly on human development which includes enhancing capacities of citizens through education and different forms of training.

3.Youth orientation and development should form an integral part of national development strategy which shall include investment in provision of working opportunities.

4.There should be visible and enforceable provisions in the national statutes for achieving justice and equality among the citizens irrespective of class distinctions while the judiciary should be strengthened.

5.Good governance shall be a cardinal principle of governments. The war against corruption should receive a national acclaim and practical steps should be taken to ensure victory on the programme. Governments should make accountability, a familiar system in their relationship with the people.

6.There is an urgent need for legislations, pertaining to human rights and citizens' freedom in all manifestations, according to laws; recognition of civil society organizations and adherence to the rule of law as a manner of socio-political order.

7.There should be a conscious effort by

governments to encourage the partnership principle in development programmes between the public and the private sectors as well as the inclusion of input from the citizens on development projects.

8.Governments should recognize as a fundamental objective, the provision and regular maintenance of public utilities and amenities.

9.An urgent imperative has arisen for Africa and the Arab world, to co-ordinate their efforts to find lasting solution to the malignant continuous wars, political tension, conflict and terrorism in the two regions which have been diverting national resources, attention and energies from the pursuit of development goals to the prosecution of fratricidal wars.

10. Cooperation and collaborative efforts between Africa and the Arab world should



be harnessed to combat such disasters as desertification, flooding, drought, earthquake, volcanoes and epidemics.

11. Governments should prioritize projects on the improvement of agricultural production as a national emergency to enhance the productivity of small rural farmers, increase their capacity for generating incomes, enhance their resistance to crop failures and thus buoy the country against famine or food insecurity.

12. Parliaments and national councils in Africa and the Arab world should strengthen their oversight functions of government business to maintain transparency, expose corruption, and ensure that laws and policies are executed in accordance with the provisions of the laws. They should improve their knowledge of national and international events so as to be properly guided in their deliberations and they should strengthen their research bureaucracy to provide them with dependable statistical indices and objective information in their appraisal of proposed measures and public opinion.

13. The legislatures and national councils in their allocation of national resources through budgeting should pay attention to projects that affect the generality of the people and through their oversight functions, monitor the implementation of the projects until their completion.

14. The progress towards democracy and the Rule of Law is imperative for countries wishing to make guarantees of human rights and basic freedoms. This will lead to inter-regional, inter-state and inter-personal partnerships for exchange of thought, ideas, expertise, peaceful solution of differences, reformation of state apparatuses, good governance and development.

15. Education for all and basic freedoms, equality among men and women, acquisition of information technology, raising of educated labour force will strengthen a country to build a knowledgeable society to confront challenges of globalization and be involved in its exchanges along with other nations.

16. The need for eradication of illiteracy, expansion of qualitative educational opportunities, acquisition of modern expertise, undertaking deep courses in science and technology for Africans and Arabs is now more imperative and urgent than ever before if the region is to stand

on its own ground in the ensuing vicious wave of globalization.

17. Generating job opportunities is a priority for eradicating poverty and evenly distributing the development gains among citizens. This includes generating policies and programmes to enable small scale farmers and businesses to be self-sustaining.

18. There is a yawning need for investment attraction through encouraging legislations and availability of functional infrastructure in Africa and the Arab countries.

19. Economic growth in the Arab and African countries should be characterized by transparency, corruption-free dealings, expansion of inter-state and inter-regional trade to create the semblance of a common market and the development of competitive environment to provide the best commodities with the lowest prices for the citizens.

20. Sustainable development in the two regions shall require deep appreciation and observance of democratic norms, expansion of the bases of mass participation in political affairs such as the establishment of 2nd legislative chambers, respecting healthy work ethics, guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary, encouraging the existence of responsible civil society, independent media and strict respect of the functional limits of the executive, the legislative and judiciary institutions.

21. The African and the Arab countries should vigorously encourage educated citizenry as a means of providing solid development base and ensuring for their nations, qualified and trained manpower with objective leadership to guarantee the continuation of aspirations for improved socio-economic and political climate.

22. African and Arab parliaments should review and give more teeth to national legislations on violence, terrorism and extremism and support their governments to ratify international agreements that contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security.

23. As parliamentarians especially at the apex level, in Africa and the Arab countries, members of ASSECAA in this millennium, are inexorably committed to contribute to the alleviation of poverty, famine, misery, unemployment, to discourage non-application of democratic norms in their civilized and human aspects, guard



against the absence of real justice in the two regions especially at the distribution of national resources inside the states and provinces and stand against the continuous violation of human rights.

24. The members of ASSECAA have resolved to actively participate in formulating a comprehensive and just settlement road map for the international disputes in the region of Africa and the Arab world.

25. The Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world calls upon creditor countries to urgently consider complete cancellation of all debts ascribed to African and Arab countries to enable the region to commence a process of emerging from its economic emergency.

The Association:

i) noted with dismay the continuing violence in Iraq and the unending conflict in the middle east and called on the parties to the violence in Iraq to feel for the displaced women, children, the elderly and the bereaved families and seek an end to their sufferings.

ii) expressed the strong view that forms of government and political structure of any sovereign state are fundamental properties of nationhood and should be decided by the people and government of the state in question without foreign imposition.

iii) noted with regret the continuing conflict in the horn of Africa which is leading to prolonged dissipation of resources that should have been applied to improvement of infrastructure and services to the people and called on the parties to the conflict to choose the opportunities for dialogue being offered by the African union, the Arab League, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the East African Union to resolve the conflicts without creating further hardship for the citizens of that region.

iv) intensely regretted the current developments in Darfur where the African Union peace troops were surprisingly attacked and overwhelmed at a time when serious discussions under the auspices of the United Nations were taking place to find a lasting solution to the Darfur conflict and called upon the government, the militias and the people Sudan to embrace the opportunity for peace being offered by various regional and united nations initiatives to end the fratricidal wars.

v) called upon the peoples of the Middle East to show committed concern to the peace negotiations being sponsored by the Arab nations, the United Nations and other international bodies to resolve their age-long conflicts and join the rest of the world in the pursuit of global peace and harmony.

vi) called upon the African and Arab chambers of commerce and industry to massively attend the first meeting of the chambers of commerce and industry scheduled to take place in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in 2008, under the auspices of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world and use that golden opportunity to initiate strong economic links and cooperation between African and Arab countries.

vii) called upon member Senates and Councils to attend in good numbers, the meeting of the Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee of the Association scheduled to take place in the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 11th to 13th December 2007 and to utilize the opportunity of that committee, to forge practical strategies that will enable ASSECAA to make productive contributions to the resolution of the debilitating conflict, wars and tension among and inside African and Arab countries.

viii) calls on the Senates and 2nd Chambers all over the world to raise a united strong voice of condemnation, over terrorism, authoritarianism and the use of extreme force that results in the death of citizens, to suppress civil protestations against regimes that have no democratic culture.

The delegates resolved to place on record their sincere gratitude to the following:

i) The government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for hosting the 2007 retreat.

ii) The President, His Excellency Mr. Zaid Al-Raefaay and the members of the Al-Ayan Council of Jordan for the organization of the retreat in Jordan.

iii) His Excellency Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani who has held the Chairmanship of the Association for four years with a palpable determination to nurture the young organization

iv) The Secretariat of Al-Ayan Council of Jordan headed by Dr. Khalaf Al-Hmeisat for the efficient organization of the retreat.



v)The Secretary-General of the Association H.E Mr. Livinus I. Osuji and the officials of the General Secretariat of ASSECAA for their dedication and unwavering commitment to ensure the realization of the objectives of ASSECAA.

The forum also expressed immense gratitude to HRH, Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, king of the Kingdom of Jordan for his support and encouragement towards the hosting of the retreat.

The General Secretariat of the Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab world 22nd October 2007.

Recommendations from the Retreat held in Nouakchott , Mauritania

the Retreat recommended:

(i) That democracy is not to be exported from one region to another or defined in the value system of any one clime but should be rooted in the socio-political, cultural and economic experiences and existential requirements of a people.

The common denominator is the existence of popular mandate in governance, a system of checks and balances,

(v)That legislatures shall strive always to ensure balance in government by guarding the institutional legal personality of the parliamentary institution and acting with respect and obvious patriotism in its relationship with other arms of government.

(vi)That parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab world shall strive to protect the rights of women and youths by legislation to maximize their invaluable contributions to the national development .

(vii)The Association reviewed the unhealthy tremendous circulation of illegal arms in Africa and the Arab world and decried the alarming proportion of the level of casualties, concerned that the easy access to illicit arms in these regions leads to easy resort to prevalent armed robbery, armed conflicts, violence in several places and political tension in many countries; and

(a) calls upon the United Nations to urgently take action to enforce the embargo on exportation of illegal arms to African and Arab countries in conflict,

(b) calls upon the African and Arab countries to take action to control the circulation of illicit arms in their countries by setting up agencies under national statutes to fight against the proliferation of arms circulation in their countries.

(c) calls upon the countries of Africa and the Arab world



Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

fundamental rights and the rule of law in place of despotism.

(ii)The legislature for it to meet its constitutional roles shall defend the rights of the people, make laws that support freedom of the people, freedom of Association and unity in the nation and transparency.

(iii)That parliament shall promote democracy and egalitarianism in its constitutional duties, educate the electorate on private and public morality and represent all segments of the nation fairly and equally.

(iv)That regular, free and fair elections shall be a visible feature of all democracies in Africa and the Arab world in order to validate the mandate of legislatures and confer undisputable national cohesion on parliamentary statutes.

to strengthen national security agencies to assure citizens of the needlessness of acquiring private militia.

(d) Calls upon African and Arab countries to take urgent steps to sign international agreements on arms control in their countries.

11.0 The Association expressed profound gratitude to the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania H.E Sidi Mohammed Ould Sheikh Abdullahi, for the reassuring support he has given for the Association’s retreat in Mauritania, it extends most hearty congratulations and thanks to the President and the Senate of Mauritania for the warm reception and facilities provided to the delegates to ensure a very successful retreat for the Association in 2008.

12.0 It unreservedly commends and thanks the paper



presenters for very lucid, deeply researched, insightful and thought provoking papers by which they stimulated the delegates to review their roles as legislators at the apex level. The delegates express sincere appreciation to the people of Mauritania and the press in Nouakchott for the warmth of their reception and coverage of the meetings. The retreat extends its high appreciation to the chairman and members of the Local Organising Committee, the Chairman of the Association, the Secretary-General and all those who have contributed to ensure the success of the retreat.

The retreat directed that messages of appreciation be sent to the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the President of Senate and the Chairman of the Local Organising Committee of the retreat.

General Secretariat 6th May 2008

Recommendations from fourth Retreat of ASSECAA Addis Ababa-Ethiopia 24-25 Sept, 2011

The Retreat arrived at the following recommendations:

-Enhancement of the role of bicameralism to strengthen the democratic institutions in member countries.

-Consolidation of parliamentary diplomacy to achieve the common interests of member countries.

-Respecting human rights, especially the rights of women.

-Spurring the private sector in member countries to work towards cooperation and joint action.

-Resolving the problems facing youth

-Making use of the successful experience of sustainable development, particularly the Ethiopian development experience, and exchange of experience among member states.

-Respecting the rights of different ethnic groups and adopting equal citizenship as a basis for rights and duties.

-Reviewing investment positions, social communication, and unifying political visions among member states so to be able to encounter current challenges.

-Strengthening relationships with parliamentary Organizations in African and Arab World such as the African Parliamentary Union , the African Union and the Arab League.

-Enhancing cooperation among financial centers in member countries.

-Establishing political economic studies center to present views and recommendations to ensure the strengthening of relation among member countries.

-Building up and taking care of the family and paying an adequate attention to women.

-Taking care of school environment and redrafting curricula.

-Civil society organizations and political parties should pay their role in enhancing democracy.

-Incorporating youth into public life sectors.



Headquarters of the House of Federation of Ethiopia

to help them achieve their ambitions for education and job opportunities that enable them lead a dignified life.

-Giving youth the chance to make their own preferences.

-The youth should interact with the



sophisticated technological development while getting enough training and enhancing competence.

Resolutions from 5th Retreat of the Association of Senates Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World, Source du Nil Hotel, Bujumbura, Burundi :

After fruitful deliberations and contributions of participating delegates the meeting hereby resolved as follows:

- 1-That there is need to emphasize the principles of dialogue among conflicting rivals as the only effective means to resolve all disputes and achieve the culture of peace in the two regions.
- 2 -That the Afro-Arab Cultural institute based in Mali be reactivated in such a way that enables it boost Afro-Arab cultural cooperation.
- 3-That Arab and African governments be urged to:

strategies on cultural renaissance, which were laid out by the African Union. Chief among these is the action plan on culture and renovation for 2008 and the Charter of African Cultural Renaissance for 2006.

e) That ASSECAA’s member countries liaise with civil society organizations on both sides to boost cultural cooperation and exchange experiences in a manner that reflects positively on the enhancement of cultural communication and understanding.

f)That cultural institutions and film-making be encouraged in order to bring to the fore the issues of common interests in the two regions , especially as visual messages are more effective and attractive than the audio and print media.

g) That universities and scientific research centers in the two regions be encouraged to project Master and PhD dissertations on historic, linguistic and cultural issues, provided that such theses be

Headquarters of Burundi's Senate



a) Develop curricula in such a way that reflects the importance of culture, cultural communication and rapprochement and inculcates cultural values , knowledge into the minds of youths.

b) That Studies and scientific research centers be urged to encourage cultural researches that focus on common denominators between Arab and African cultures.

c)That concerned authorities should assume the responsibility of preserving Afro-Arab cultural heritage against any sabotage and/or destruction by enacting relevant legislations, and that parliamentary standing committees should exercise their oversight functions to ensure that such laws are fully implemented, while enlisting the help of UNESCO as well as the Arab League’s Education, Science and Culture Organization (ALESCO).

d) That Afro-Arab ministers of culture be urged to revitalize positive communication with cultural institutions and unions in the two regions in such a way as to promote institutional work, cooperation and cultural integration, while utilizing the major

exchanged between Arab universities and their African counterparts.

h) That Afro-Arab governments be urged to encourage travel agencies and transport means to offer the necessary facilities that would attract tourists and enhance tourist activities in a way that achieves cultural communication between the two regions.

4- That women’s organizations in the two regions be encouraged to exchange views and experiences in a manner that ultimately achieves the empowerment of women on both sides.

5- That Afro-Arab governments be urged to enhance the principles of equality, justice, equity, and transparency in their respective countries with the aim of alleviating poverty, boosting the culture of peace and achieving social and economic development.

General Secretariat Friday, November 30, 2013



ASSECAA's Meetings of Chambers of commerce and industry in Africa and Arab world

The promotion of economic and trade cooperation between Africa and Arab world is one of the most significant objectives ASSECAA seeks to achieve, given that cooperation fields boost constructive and useful bonds among nations. Since its inception, ASSECAA has taken utmost interest in enhancing Afro-Arab economic and trade cooperation. For this purpose, the Association has held several meeting for the chambers of commerce and industry in member and non-member states. It has been in the habit of inviting relevant regional and international business organizations to such meetings.

The first meeting was held in Cape Town, South Africa in 2008, the second was convened in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, in 2010, and the third took place in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco in 2012. The events came up with very illuminating views and ideas, which, if taken seriously, would take Afro-Arab economic cooperation to new heights. Below is a summary of the recommendations and resolutions from the said meetings:

Recommendations from Cape Town Meeting:

i. The meeting accordingly recommended



that this meeting is the first meeting in the chain of dialogues that will culminate in the eventual establishment of a common Afro-Arab institution to mediate economic cooperation between the two regions.

ii. The countries of Africa and Arab world should encourage the participation of their national chambers of commerce in the formulation of economic policies.

iii. The countries of Africa and Arab world should activate and reactivate agreements concerning regional cooperation and trade.

iv. The Arab and Africa countries should work to enhance bilateral or regional communication, meetings and trainings concerning trade, investment and business promotion.

v. The Arab and African countries should endeavour to internalise the transformation of technology.

vi. There is need to support investments between the two regions. In this regard, institutions which guarantee investment and provide funding should be encouraged to meet periodically so as to ensure effective cooperation.

vii. The next meeting should take place in the Jamahiriya Libya in accordance with invitation from the representative of Libya. The details of the date should be worked out by the Secretariat of ASSECAA and the authorities in Libya.

Cape Town October, 2008

2-Recommendation from Manama Meeting:

Recommendations

The Committee recommended as follows:

i. That the meeting should accept and direct ASSECAA Secretariat to circulate the draft Treaty to all countries in Africa and the Arab world.

ii. That the draft should be a document which the Meetings of Chambers of Commerce and Industry



can focus on and work towards its improvement in the course of the years ahead.

iii. That a Committee of legal draftsmen be set up to technically redraft the Treaty while it is being studied by different countries.

iv. That the Committee should be funded by ASSECAA.

v. That ASSECAA Secretariat should study further issues of business laws, such as indigenisation, tariff regimes and waivers in view of the provisions of the WTO agreements.

of Commerce and Industries organised by ASSECAA,

CONVINCED of the need to guide the discussions at future meetings to a set objective of creating an economic bloc for the two regions,

CONSCIOUS of the fact that similar institutions have sprung up in other regions of the world,

CONSCIOUS of the fact that these other regions through their regional economic/trade blocs are strengthened in their participation in the globalised world socio-economic and political order,

Headquarters of the shoura Council of the kingdom of Bahrain



The recommendations were adopted nemine contradicente

7.4 Resolutions

The 2nd Meeting of the Chambers of Commerce and Industries in Africa and the Arab world, held in Manama, Bahrain,

OBSERVING that the historical and geographical ties that link Africa and the Arab world form an inseparable bond of co-existence,

OBSERVING that the two regions are endowed with abundant natural resources and promising opportunities for strong trade links,

OBSERVING that the two regions share undeniably strong desires to build all round formidable trade relationships,

RECOGNISING the need for a centre for information gathering and studies on all African and Arab countries including investment opportunities,

RECOGNISING the important role of exhibitions at regional level, workshop on the economic development of the region and exchange of business visits,

DETERMINED to vigorously continue the search for a process of strong economic cooperation between Africa and the Arab world,

CONSCIOUS of the need to ensure wider participation by the African and Arab countries in the Meetings of the Chambers

RESOLVED:

a) That the draft Treaty prepared by ASSECAA Secretariat be adopted as a document which the meeting of the Chambers of Commerce and Industries in Africa and the Arab world should focus on perfecting.

b) That ASSECAA Secretariat should circulate the draft to all countries in Africa and the Arab world for their study, amendment and return to the Secretariat in the course of the years that will lead to its ratification.

c) That a Committee of international law experts and legal draftsmen be set up to study and improve the document while it is being studied by different countries

d) That the Committee should be funded by ASSECAA.

e) That the Meeting of Chambers of Commerce and Industries in Africa and the Arab world should be organised every year.

f) That local, regional and international business firms should be consulted to sponsor the Meetings of the Chambers of Commerce and Industries.

g) That ASSECAA Secretariat should prepare a database on the investment opportunities and policies in the two regions.

h) That government investment promotion agencies should be invited to future Meetings of the Chambers of Commerce and Industries to start co-ordination of efforts.



i) That Exhibition, Workshops and Business exchange visits should be programmed and included in future activities of the Meeting of Chambers of Commerce and Industries.

Manama

28 October, 2010

3- Recommendation from Rabat Meeting:

Recommendations:

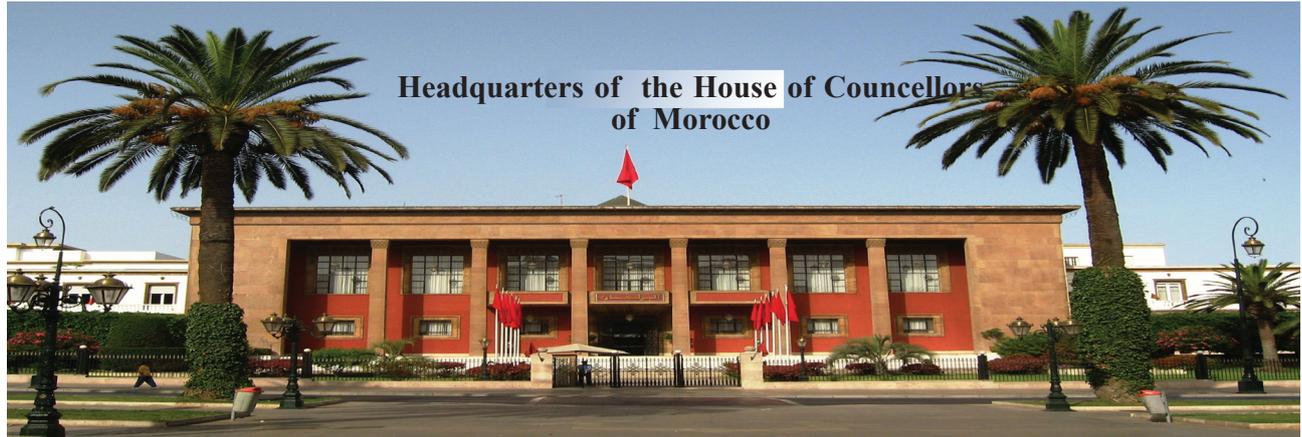
After deliberations, the participants came up with the

financial and economic institutions concerned with supporting Afro-Arab cooperation.

-Urge Afro-Arab decision-makers to ease restrictions on the strengthening of Afro-Arab trade relations as well as the development of investment dynamics among Arab and African countries.

-Give a special attention to the creation of information centers and databases for the benefit of businessmen and investors.

-Call upon all concerned parties to provide legal and



following recommendations:

-There is need to exploit the economic groupings existing in African and Arab countries in order for Arab countries to set up industrial, agricultural and service projects in partnership with African states.

-There is need for Arab and African countries to set up infrastructures in different development sectors to encourage domestic investments and attract foreign investors, including Arabs who have superfluous funds.

-Implement seriously the majority of recommendations and resolutions from different meetings related to foreign trade and investment at the Arab and African levels, and urge all concerned parties to do the same.

-It is important to explain all legislation on the encouragement of investments as well as the provision of incentives to investors.

-It is also important to facilitate the administrative procedures pertaining to cash remittances on the part of investors operating in Arab and African countries.

-Lay down financial and economic policies to ensure good treatments for investors.

-Set up channels for boosting institutional and regular communication with the components of the Afro-Arab private sectors.

-Work towards making a better coordination among

political conditions necessary for the emergence of Afro-Arab trade and investment pole.

-Revive the Afro-Arab Institution for finance and investment proposed by Kuwait during the tenth session of the standing committee of Afro-Arab cooperation.

-Set up centers for conciliation and arbitration at Afro-Arab chambers of commerce, and revitalize their roles in resolving the conflicts that might erupt among businessmen in such countries.

-Reduce customs restrictions and facilitate their procedures in order to encourage trade exchange between Africa and Arab world, taking into account the interests of productive sectors.

-Ameliorate climate investment in Arab and African countries and enhance communication between Afro-Arab chambers of commerce.

-Prepare for phased creation of Afro-Arab free trade zone, taking into account the interests of both regions.

-Urge the private sector to play a vital role in stimulating national legislatures to enact legislation necessary for encouraging and protecting investments and cash flows.

-The private can also take the initiative of setting up joint trade fairs and holding meetings and conferences for investment and tourist marketing.



- Take joint Afro-Arab procedures to coordinate investment and trade policies.
- Build up effective institutional capacities to facilitate investment and boost Afro-Arab trade relations.
- Spur the construction and maintenance of infrastructures to facilitate the transport of products among Arab and African countries at a minimum cost.
- Underpin the steps already taken in several Arab and African countries to improve investment environment, disseminate information on investment in the two regions, improve governance and legal institution and respect ownership rights.
- Adopt productive policies in keeping with international standards and specifications in order to enhance competitiveness.
- Take the necessary measures to encourage the private sectors to play its role in backing investments and reactivating trade among Arab and African countries.
- Make the necessary arrangements for easing customs barriers, and eliminate non-customs hurdles among Arab and African countries.
- Encourage oil-producing Arab and African countries to invest in ventures that depend on contrived production techniques catalyzing economic diversity and increasing the size of trade exchange among Arab and African countries.
- Make endeavors to ratify the internationally accepted standards and specifications in such a manner that is in tandem with the agreement on health and eco-health.
- Encourage Arab national development fund institutions for financing small and medium projects, including agricultural ventures, in African countries in order to bridge food gap.
- Prop up relations among Afro-Arab chambers of commerce, industry, agriculture and vocations in Arab and African countries in order to support investment and trade exchange.
- Upgrade an enhanced finance mechanism or adjust the existing mechanism to provide extra funds to finance Afro-Arab cooperation in the field of investment and trade in consultation with Arab development fund institutions, including the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.
- Create an integrated Afro-Arab partnership that lays the groundwork for undertaking sustainable development programs aimed at raising the contributions of renewable energies, and developing rural electrification sector and strengthen electric power in African and Arab countries.
- Create a finance mechanism capable of funding joint mega ventures with economic and technical feasibility for the purpose of indigenizing industries.
- Urge businessmen to identify the vast investment opportunities available in Africa and the world at large.
- Strengthen joint relations and cooperation in industrial and trade sectors, and exchange information and statistics on economic activities and optimum investment practices in the two regions.
- Exchange the legislation relevant to economic activities to serve trade and investment purposes.
- Exchange visits and invitations to trade fairs and marketing campaigns for the activities organized by the two regions.
- Cooperate on training and dissemination of knowledge and expertise in the fields of joint action.
- Urge investment and trade institutions to make use of various investment opportunities and advantages available in Africa, and develop Arab engagement in upgrading renewable energies and new industrial ventures set up in the two regions.
- Encourage the setting up of investment projects in partnership with Arab companies to boost economic cooperation and open up new avenues for investments on both sides.
- Enhance economic and investment cooperation among small and medium firms.
- The Arab and African chambers should take serious initiatives of identifying economic developments and creating an environment conducive to investment in both regions.
- Increase the exchange of business delegations to identify the latest developments related to investment opportunities available on both sides, and organize joint trade fairs in coordination with the federation of chambers of commerce.
- Increase the exchange of information on economic developments taking place in each country, identify planned projects and the terms and conditions for the engagement therein on the part of companies, and intensify communication among the private sectors in the two regions in order to consider the possibility of cooperation in setting up joint ventures.
- Promote cross-border trade by upgrading commodities' entry and exit procedures in African and Arab countries, eliminate customs barriers, and set up effective business organizations capable of sensitizing public authorities to the necessity of carrying out reforms.
- Urge Arab and African governments and legislatures to introduce radical reforms into the laws related to the movement of trade and financial investment.



Meetings of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world

Since its creation, ASSECAA has given a special attention to women's issues, mainly the importance of giving women the opportunity to engage heavily in public life, particularly in legislative assemblies, given that women constitute half the society. Further, contemporary life has given women a variety of rights, including the right to education, and the right to the assumption of public office on an equal footing with men as enshrined in international and regional statutes.

There emanated from ASSECAA's meeting of women parliamentarians in Africa and Arab world a panel called "the Committee on the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians", which has thus far held numerous events in Nigeria and Sudan, during which it deliberated upon the most crucial issues related to the promotion of women's capabilities at various levels. Those activities came up with significant recommendations and resolutions which were tabled to the Association's conference for discussion and adoption. These can be summed up as follows:

RESOLUTIONS from Abuja Meeting :

the meeting accordingly resolved that:

a. parliaments in Africa and the Arab world should enact gender friendly legislations that facilitate the participation of women in political processes, through the provision of quota based on UN resolutions of 30% of political offices for women;

b. governments in the regions of Africa and the Arab world should implement as a matter of urgency, all protocols and treaties on gender parity ratified by individual countries, formulate policies that enable women to have easy access to credit facilities, create equal employment opportunities and remunerations for both men and women;

c. all parliaments should enact legislations to eliminate all customs and laws that inhibit women from inheritance and access to land for economic purposes;

d. all governments in Africa and the Arab world should establish free health care services for pregnant women and children from 0 – 5 years of age, intensify the war against HIV/AIDS and other endemic diseases;

e. the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab should be held at least once in two years.

13.0 The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab world calls on:

a. all governments in Africa and the Arab world to improve the level of transparency and

accountability in governance, in order to reduce the tension and strife in politics; and

b. all women parliamentarians in the region to use their outreach programmes to educate their constituents on the negative influence of cultural, religious, and traditional practices that inhibit the development of women.

14.0 The meeting expresses abundant gratitude to the Council and Conference of ASSECAA for the initiative for this seminal Meeting of Women Parliamentarians in Africa and the Arab world, which will be sustained to establish a veritable forum for exposing African and Arab women to the demands of modern nationhood and their inalienable rights and obligatory contributions towards the development of their countries.

7th October 2009

Recommendations from Khartoum Meeting

-Stressing the importance of evaluating the previous conferences and following upon their recommendations and outputs.

-It is necessary to encourage small and middle women enterprises, including cooperatives and other social institutions, and to make use of the experiences of Gabon, Sudan, Ethiopia and Yemen with respect to family bank and textiles.

-exerting concerted efforts and creating bridges of communication among Arab and African nations (creation of friendship society).

-Emphasizing the importance of engaging women parliamentarians in the various activities of the Association.

-The meeting of women parliamentarians should be held annually.

Khartoum 19 March 2012

Recommendations from Women parliamentarians' meeting in Khartoum, February, 2014

A-on Political and legislative front:

1-There is need for Arab and African governments to lend political support to women to enable them engage in decision-making.

2-There is need that the Association lays down special regulations for the committee of women parliamentarians.

3-It is necessary that the Association sets out an action plan, or hold a conference and/or undertake a program to discuss the political empowerment of women in such a way as to review the experiences of member countries, while taking into account the experiences of individual member countries.

4-That parliaments be urged to support women delegates to international parliamentary forums in order to legislatively empower them and build



their legislative capacities.

5-There is need that women parliamentarians in ASSECAA's member states exchange parliamentary visits to compare notes and share legislative experiences of these countries.

-Engage women in all ASSECAA's committees as well as the delegations to the association's activities.

-Educate society on the importance of women's roles and potentials.

-Integrate women's needs into the state's general budget.

-Urge member countries to hammer out a clear work-plan for the empowerment of women.

On socio-economic and cultural front

1-Urge member countries to provide ASSECAA with general statistics on women's economic empowerment as well as the number of women working for the private and public sector , in addition to private businesses ventures.

2-There is need that women parliamentarians be represented in ASSECAA's meetings.

3- Urge countries to provide gratuitous health services for pregnant women and children less than five years of age in Africa and Arab world.

4--Urge member states to intensify their efforts to fight the Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), malaria and tuberculosis.

5-Impress upon Arab and African governments the need to hammer out mechanisms for reducing the spike in maternal and child mortality rates.

6- Training and workshops

1-Organize training courses for members of ASSECAA's committee on women parliamentarians to enable them acquire legislative and parliamentary skills.

3-Hold a workshop on the solutions that must be provided to the problems related to maternal care and noxious habits.

4-Work towards establishing a center for monitoring women's conditions.

5-Work towards issuing annual periodical and newsletters on women's issues.

6-The meeting approved a work-plan for the executive committee of women parliamentarians for the years 2014-2015.

Recommendations from Bahrain

-Hold a workshop for the purpose of laying out a mechanism for reactivating the laws on the political empowerment of women and their engagement in decision-making.

Recommendation from Sudan

-Organize a workshop on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its negative effects on Africa and Arab world.

Recommendation from Yemen:

-Hold a workshop on the economic empowerment of women, fighting corruption amongst womenfolk, and elimination of all forms of backwardness.

Recommendation from Gabon:

-Organize a workshop on the mechanisms of protecting women against all forms of violence.

-Formulate a subcommittee on peace and security in Africa and Arab world within ASSECAA's committee on women parliamentarians, The chairperson of the subcommittee shall appointed by Morocco, while her deputy shall be named by the Kingdom of Bahrain.

-Hold a workshop on peace and security in Africa and Arab world.

-Organize a workshop for the purpose of conducting a comparative study on women's and child legislation in Africa and Arab world.

Khartoum, February, 2014



Meetings of Peace and Conflict Resolution Committees under the supervision of ASSECAA

The issue of peace and conflict resolution has been of key interest to the Association since its establishment, given that peace is a prerequisite for the achievement of stability and development in Africa and Arab world. Unfortunately, several Arab and African countries have been grappling with intractable disputes that hampered any efforts at progress and development.

It is against this backdrop that ASSECAA has thus far held a number of meetings in order to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in the two regions. The first meeting was convened in Abuja, Nigeria in 2007, the second took place in Bujumbura, Burundi in 2009, and the third was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2013. The events came up with a set of highly significant recommendations and resolutions, all of which were designed to boost the already exerted efforts at the resolution of conflicts and the establishment of peace in the two regions. These can be summarized as follows:

Recommendations from Abuja Meeting:

1-Urge the Somali transitional government to peacefully resolve the conflict through dialogue with all Somali social segments.

2-Urge the international community, including the United Nations, the African Union, IGAD, the Arab League, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to show commitment to conflict resolution in Somalia.

3- Call upon Arab and African governments to

contribute financial and human resources to the Somali people in order to enhance the role of the peacekeeping forces there.

4-ASSECAA together with Arab and African countries should show commitment to backing all the efforts aimed at the restoration of peace and stability in Sudan and Somalia.

5-Urge all parties to conflict, especially in Somalia, to shun violence and adopt dialogue as the best means of conflict resolutions, as was the case in Burundi, Liberia, and other countries that experienced disputes and civil wars.

6- Give equal opportunities in future negotiations to armed groups, conflict parties, special interest groups and all social groups in concerned countries so that they can partake of shaping up the feature of their respective countries.

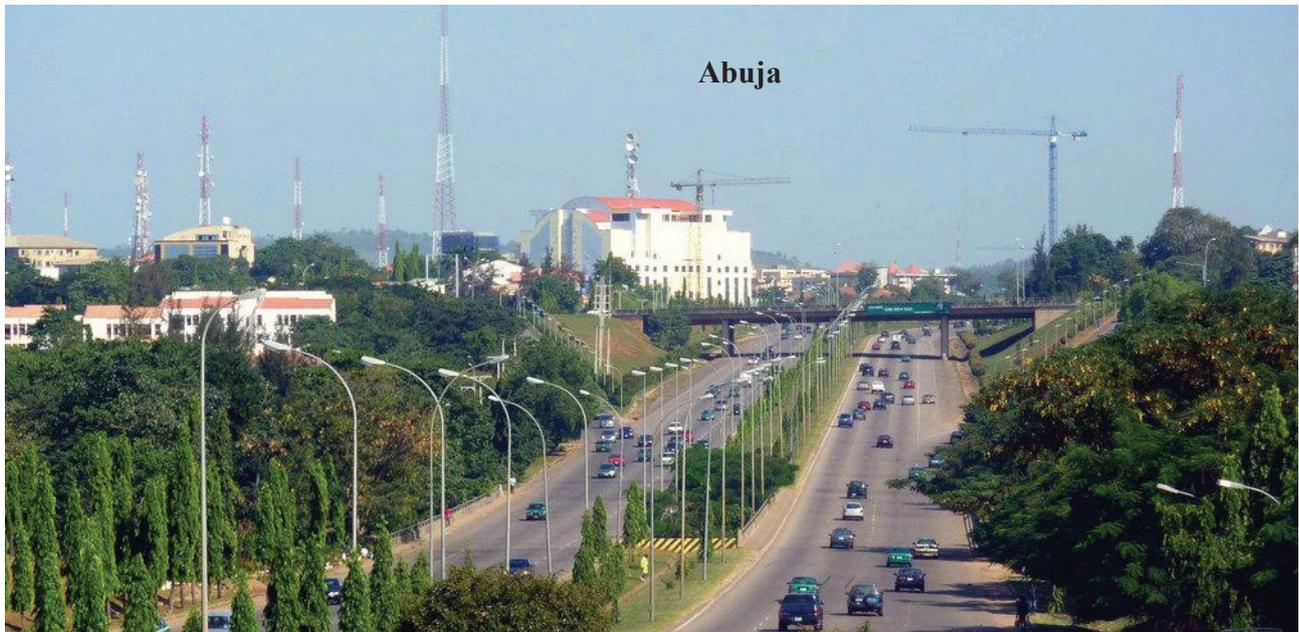
7-The Association should actively engage in the international efforts at the promotion of peace and stability , and contribute effectively to the resolution of conflicts in Arab and African countries that suffer from wars and conflicts.

8-The Association must express its appreciation and respect for Saudi Arabia ,the Republic of Yemen , the Federal Republic of Nigeria , the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and the Republic of Uganda for the great efforts they exerted in order to contribute to the resolution of conflicts in Sudan and Somalia.

9- The Association urged the leaders of the countries

that experience conflicts to prevent social and tribal disintegration by avoiding tribal prejudices during political appointments to, and nominations for parliaments and executive positions.

10-The Association must express its support for the Sudanese government to enable it to achieve





a comprehensive peace with the armed groups in Darfur until peace prevails in the region.

11-ASSECAA should strongly condemn the abduction by a French organization of a number of children from Sudan and Chad as a violation of those children's rights and dignity. It should also conduct an investigation into this incident in order to protect victims' rights and ensure the payment of compensation to their families for the psychological and physical damage and humiliation suffered by those families as a result of the abduction of their kids.

12-ASSECAA should extend support to the people of Sudan with regard to the efforts aimed at promoting the country's independence, and protecting it from foreign assault and interventions.

13-The Association should invite all armed groups and conflict parties to participate in the negotiations aimed at reaching a peaceful solution to the conflict in accordance with the international community's demands in this regard.

14-The Association expresses its support for the Sudanese government's position on the deployment of peacekeeping forces in the region under the supervision of an African security command.

15-The Association should coordinate visits to the parties involved in the conflict in order to obtain important information that contributes to the resolution of the conflict and elimination of the obstacles to the process of reaching a peaceful solution to the conflict.

16- The Association should provide initiatives, including significant views and suggestions, to regional and international forums held to discuss the helpful ways and means of resolving conflicts in Arab and African countries.

17-The Association should take advantage of modern communications and the Internet in documenting the events held by the Association, mainly those related to peace and conflict resolution.

18-The Association should be working towards increasing its financial resources, particularly those allocated for supporting peace and conflict resolution programs, the implementation of which would go a long way towards the achievement of one of ASSECAA's most significant goals.

19-The Association ought to urge member councils to provide effective contributions to ASSECAA's activities, especially peace and conflict resolution programs, which are highly important in the resolution of conflicts and wars which leave devastating effects on socio-economic and political development in Arab and African countries.

20- ASSECAA should work towards promoting the unity of objectives of both the African Union

and Arab League in order to use diplomatic channels to persuade the parties to the conflict to return to the negotiating table.

21-The Association should be working to explore the means necessary for urging the international community through the United Nations to impose an embargo on the sales of arms and ammunition in Somalia and put in place mechanisms to ensure the effective enforcement of the ban.

22-A less complicated entity should be created to represent the parties to the conflict in Somalia in an attempt to reach a peaceful settlement through negotiations.

23-ASSECAA should be working towards supporting and promoting good governance, transparency and accountability, political participation and the rule of law as well as justice and equality in Arab and African countries in order to resolve disputes and eradicate the root causes of violence and tension.

Abuja 12-13 December 2007

Recommendations from Bujumbura Meeting:

The Committee reasserts its role in the restoration of peace in Darfur, support of efforts for national reconciliation between the parties to the dispute and the role of the League of Arab States, the African Union and the United Nations on this regard. The Subcommittee is of the view that the main entry points to the restoration of peace in Darfur rests in the following:-

1-Reconfirms the principal of dialogue as a mean for understanding and the settlement of the dispute between all parties in without the use of force.

2-Reconfirms the principal of territorial integrity of the Sudan and its sovereignty over the Sudanese national soil.

3-Reconfirms the rejection of all foreign interventions in the Darfur issue which impede the peace efforts.

4-Reconfirms the need to address all humanitarian, social and economic issues which would assist the Darfurians to maintain their existence and to prevent their migration.

5-Reconfirms the position of the League of Arab States in dealing with the International Criminal Court (ICC) regarding the indictment of the Sudanese President.

6-Reconfirms the role of ASSECAA in following up peace issues and conflicts resolutions through peaceful means, together with member states and other states, to highlight this role and to encourage the concerned parties to attain the desired peace.

The Sub-committee calls upon the Government of the Sudan to continue the follow-up on peace efforts and the implementation of signed agreements with all other factions in Sudan in the process of realization of



an agreement for a peaceful solution in Darfur.

The Sub-Committee on Somalia presented the following report:

The subcommittee emanating from the peace and conflict committee of ASSECAA held its meeting in the afternoon on Monday 03-03-09 and it was attended by the distinguished delegations of the shooras, senates and equivalent councils in Africa and the Arab world from the following states:-

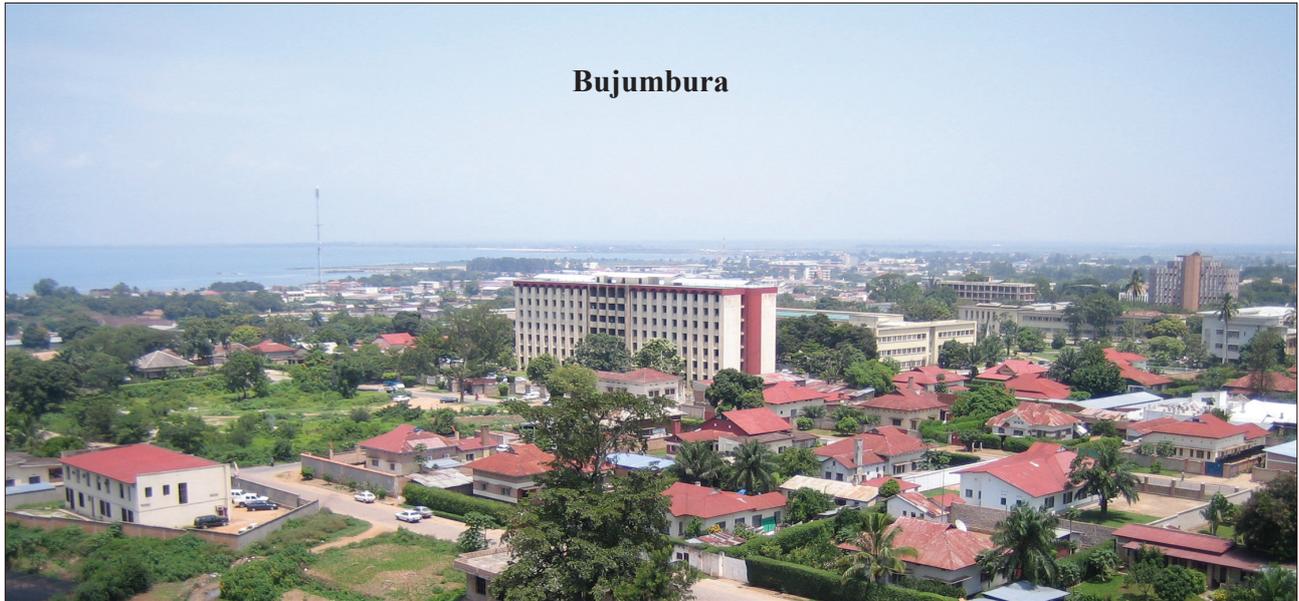
-Republic of Yemen

-Encourages the continuation of dialogue with remaining Somali factions in the country and abroad.

- Recommends the adoption of a new political covenant to define a mechanism for engaging in the political process and outlines the new constitution for Somalia.

- To speed up the formation of a national security force and an army which represents all segments of society in Somalia.

- increasing the number of peacekeeping troops and



Bujumbura

-Kenya (the Kenyan parliament) observer

-The Kingdom of Swaziland

-Ethiopia

The committee reviewed the papers and interventions made in the third session of the peace and conflict resolution committee. An exchange of views and Ideas on the developments in the Somali situation and the recommendations to be adopted to contribute to the containment of the situation and the restoration of peace, the rebuilding of a Somali state and the enhancement of peace in the horn of Africa.

The subcommittee concluded its deliberations by adopting the following recommendations:-

- Confirms that the rebuilding of the Somali State as the main entry point for the restoration of peace to Somalia, and an end to all issues and problems caused by the collapse of the State.

-Blesses all efforts made to achieve the reconciliation that has led to the election of a new president, the formation of a new government and expresses support for the new government. At the same time, the committee reconfirms the need to continue efforts aiming at achieving and supporting the new government in its efforts to reinstall security and stability and law and order.

provide them with the necessary support.

- Mobilizing regional and international support to address the piracy in the red sea and the Gulf of Aden and reasserts the call by the Republic of Yemen for the establishment of a regional center to combat piracy to be located in the capital Sana'a.

- The committee recommends follow up of the situation of the Somali refugees in neighboring countries - Yemen, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya to support the establishment of refugee shelters until arrangements are made for their repatriation to Somalia and urges the donor countries to increase their funding of such projects.

-The subcommittee reasserts ASSECAA condemnation of regional and international intervention in the Somali affairs and appeals that Somalis should be left on their own to solve their own problems.

- Reasserts the need to continue ASSECAA's effort to follow up in the situation of Somalia in coordination with the African Union, the League of Arab States and international organizations concerned with peace in Somali and the Horn of Africa.

i)The Sub-Committee on the Great Lakes presented the following report:

The Committee considered the reports and approved as follows:



a. On Darfur, the Committee:

(i) reconfirms the principle of dialogue as a means for understanding and the settlement of the dispute between all parties, without the use of force.

(ii) reconfirms the principle of territorial integrity of the Sudan and its sovereignty over the Sudanese national soil

(iii) reconfirms the rejection of all foreign interventions in the Darfur issue which impede the peace efforts.

(iv) reconfirms the need to address all humanitarian, social and economic issues which would assist the Darfurians to maintain their existence and to prevent their migration.

(v) reconfirms the position of the League of Arab States and African Union in dealing with the international Criminal Court (ICC) regarding the indictment of the Sudanese President.

(vi) reconfirms the role of ASSECAA in following up peace issues and conflicts resolutions through peaceful means, together with member states and other states, to highlight this role and to encourage the concerned parties to attain the desired peace.

(vii) calls upon the Government of the Sudan to continue the follow up on peace efforts and the implementation of signed agreements with all other factions in Sudan in the process of realization of an agreement for a peaceful solution in Darfur.

(viii) appeals to the armed movements which have not joined the peace accord to do so in order to speed up the peace process.

(ix) supports the Qatar initiative for peace in Darfur and urges them to continue until peace is achieved.

b. On Somalia

The Committee observes that there is need:

(i) to speed up the formation of a national security force and an army which represents all segments of society in Somalia.

(ii) to increase the number of peace keeping troops and provide them with the necessary support.

(iii) to mobilize regional and international support to address the piracy in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden and reasserts the call by the Republic of Yemen for the establishment of a regional center to combat piracy to be located in the capital, Sana'a.

Accordingly, the committee:

(i) confirms that the rebuilding of the Somali State is the main entry point for the restoration of peace to Somalia and an end to all issues and problems caused by the collapse of the state.

(ii) supports all efforts made to achieve the reconciliation that has led to the election of a new president, the formation of a new government and

express support for the new government. At the same time, the committee reconfirms the need to continue efforts aiming at achieving and supporting the new government in its efforts to reinstall security and stability, law and order.

(iii) recommends the adoption of a new political covenant to define a mechanism for engaging in the political process and outlines the new constitution for Somalia.

(iv) recommends follow up of the situation of the Somali refugees in neighboring countries- Yemen, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya, to support the establishment of refugee shelters until arrangements are made for their repatriation to Somalia and urges the donor countries to increase their funding of such projects.

The Committee:

(i) reasserts ASSECAA's condemnation of regional and international negative intervention in the Somali affairs.

(ii) reasserts the need to continue ASSECAA's effort to follow up in the situation of Somalia in coordination with the African Union, the League of Arab states and international organizations concerned with peace in Somalia and the Horn of Africa.

c. On the Great Lakes Region, the Committee recommends that:

(i) The senates, shooras and equivalent councils should:

1. always acknowledge, encourage and support the peace process engaged in the Great Lakes Region.

2. share and exchange reconciliation experience among member states. Experiences gained by Algeria and Burundi can serve as examples.

3. put into place mechanisms of national reconciliation through laws enacted by parliaments.

4. promote and encourage in our countries, a deep and inclusive dialogue between political actors.

5. appeal to the international community to help the Great Lakes Region to come out of poverty.

6. invite concerned countries to do their best to promote investment from abroad that may be suitable to the region such as tourism, agriculture and industrial sector.

7. promote good governance and the equal share of wealth.

(ii) To the member countries of the international conference for the Great Lakes Region, the Committee recommends:

1. the full implementation of the Dar Es Salaam declaration on peace, security, democracy and development signed on the 20th of November 2004.

2. the development of a multidimensional cooperation between the states, through mechanisms of common conflict resolution and the stabilization of the sub-region.



3. the experience of Rwanda which has helped DRC fight negative forces in Eastern Congo can serve as an example.

The Committee calls on:

(i) the members of Parliaments in the sub-region, to sensitize the population so as to avoid being dragged into operations that only serve the unspoken interests of their leaders and which are generally against the same population's interests.

(ii) the political leaders, at all levels (from the grassroots to the top, i.e. the Head of State) to unflinchingly commit themselves politically in order to face the problems in the region.

(iii) the countries in the Arab world, to support further the Great Lakes Region in order to contribute to poverty reduction which is often a cause of conflicts.

(iv) the international community to continue supporting the peace initiatives and to avoid contributing to factors that destabilize peace process.

(v) Burundi and countries in the region, to encourage their population to carry on the policy of disarmament in a free and voluntary manner and put into place the mechanism of equitable and functional justice to fight against impunity in the Great Lakes Region.

On the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, the Committee:

-affirms ASSECAA's position condemning atrocities wherever they are committed by way of attacks on innocent civilians, men, women and children.

-affirms ASSECAA's position of calling for the end to all acts that create hardship, suffering and cause death to the innocent citizens in the conflict areas.

-affirms ASSECAA's position in asserting the need for national reconciliation among the Palestinians and achieving regional peace in the Middle East in accordance with the United Nations resolutions.

The Committee expresses sincere gratitude to the President of the Republic of Burundi, the Government, the Senate and the people of the Republic of Burundi for their most brotherly reception and most

encouraging arrangements which were made and which resulted in the resounding success achieved by the meeting.

Bujumbura 2009

Recommendations From Addis Ababa Meeting:

1- The participants express their profound gratitude to the General Secretariat of ASSECAA as well as the House of Federation of Ethiopia, represented by its Speaker, H.E Mr. Kassa Teklebrhan, for the generous hospitality and warm reception accorded to delegates and for organizing this significant event.

2- They urge ASSECAA's General Secretariat to regularly organize the meeting in line with the developments taking place in Africa and Arab world.

3- The delegates express their immense gratitude to paper presenters, and urge ASSECAA's General Secretariat to document such work-papers in the three languages of the Association and then circulate same to the organizations and councils that didn't attend the meeting.

They also demand parliaments, especially senates, shooras and Equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab world, to assume their national responsibility of eliminating the root causes of political tensions and conflicts and pre-empting disputes by providing judicious and wise counseling to policymakers and national institutions in relevant countries in such a manner that allows for dialogue and candid deliberations on the issues of disagreement and prevents a slide into chaos and conflicts that result in bloodshed and hamper development and progress.

They called upon parliaments to make use of the experiences of Arab and African countries plagued by conflicts and wars in order to reach convenient solutions through responsible and brave political talks.

4- The participants express their gratitude to the genuine efforts that are still being exerted by some neighboring, sisterly and friendly countries to mediate





proper solutions to disputes and help bring together different views with an aim to prevent the countries experiencing conflicts from slipping into lawlessness; the GCC-sponsored deal is a case in point. They express their utter rejection of foreign interventions, whether Iranian or otherwise, in the internal affairs of countries for any religious or political reasons as has recently happened in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Yemen. They also consider any such interventions as an aggression on the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries as well as a breach of the UN Charter.

5-The delegates call upon Arab and African countries and their respective parliaments to broaden the base of public participation, boost the respect for human rights, dispense justice and reinforce the rule of law in such a way that enhances security and stability, achieves economic development and leads to the building of stable and prosperous societies.

6- The delegates strongly condemn all forms of violence and terrorist acts carried out by armed terror groups as has recently taken place in Yemen, and prior to that, the terrorist actions that had occurred in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. They also denounce in the strongest possible terms the terror acts taking place in Mali and express their solidarity with and support for this African country in terms of maintaining its independence and territorial integrity.

The delegates further condemn the terror acts occurring in the Palestinian territories as well as the terror bombing attack on Ain Amnas gas station to the south of Algeria. They also express their full support for the responsible reaction of the Algerian authorities to such an attack, which was carried out in a way that spared lives and preserved properties. They urge all governments and civil society organizations to exert concerted efforts to eradicate such a phenomenon which is strange to our countries and communities.

7-The participants have taken notice of the Egyptian experience and its peacefulness as well as the role played by both the Egyptian people and military during the pioneering Egyptian revolution with the objective of revitalizing the mechanisms of democracy and consultations.

8-Regarding the proposal for the establishment of Friends of ASSECAA for Peace and Security, which was submitted to the meeting by ASSECAA's General Secretariat, the meeting resolved that a legal Committee should be established in order to study the legal framework of this project on the basis of the remarks presented thereon by some participants bearing in mind that other organizations such as African Union, Arab League; organizations which our respective countries belong to, engage in the matters of Peace and Security .

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Sunday, Feb.24,2013.

ASSECAA Cup of Excellence Contest

ASSECAA Cup of Excellence competition is organized in line with the various activities undertaken by ASSECAA's General Secretariat. The program is designed to engage university students in research competitions organized by the Association in coordination with the largest Yemeni University of Sana'a, represented by the Center for Political and Strategic Studies. Researches generally tackle topical issues, including development and youth's present and future concerns in such a way that realizes the objectives of the Association. The drive was approved by the seventh and eighth conferences of the Association. In 2013, the General Secretariat embarked on undertaking the program that involved Sana'a University students, and was co-sponsored by ASSECAA, the Shooraa Council of Yemen, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. In 2014, the program targeted students from three universities – namely Sana'a University, the University of Science and Technology, and the International Lebanese University. The contest was co-financed by Al-Amal Bank for Microfinance, and the Yemeni Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in addition to the aforementioned sponsors. The General Secretariat seeks to target other universities other than those already involved in the program. It is common practice that the General Secretariat chooses several topical issues to be researched upon by competitors, and then a panel of university professors looks into the researches. The best three winners are then pecked out and granted ASSECAA Cup of Excellence cash and in-kind prizes. Below are just examples of the researches conducted by ASSECAA Cup of Excellence winners:

ASSECAA Cup of Excellence 2013:-

Undoubtedly, youths are the driving force behind the development of nations. Therefore, they should be catalyzed to make best use of their potentials with the aim of contributing to the achievement of comprehensive socio-economic development in their own countries. Indeed, it is through early and serious sponsorship of rising generations that they can effectively shape up their future.

Further, youths are a key indicator of a country's ability to accomplish socio-economic, political and cultural development. Out of its keenness to achieve the objective of buttressing cultural cooperation amongst its members, ASSECAA set out a mechanism to spur youths, mainly university students, to heavily engage in scientific research in order to build up robust Afro-Arab partnership. It is against this backdrop that the Association, in cooperation with Sana'a University's Political and Strategic Studies Center, organized "ASSECAA Cup of Excellence" activity, which was intended to encourage students to conduct instructive researches that enable them address the issues related to the attainment of socio-economic development, as well as the enhancement of Afro-Arab cultural



relations.

The event was just a prelude to other activities that shall be held in the future at the level of member countries' universities and research think-tanks; it was also a corollary of the past activities carried out by ASSECAA on strategic political and economic fronts.

In addition, the Association seeks to properly harness the potentials of scholars and researchers in eliciting scientific approaches that can provide deep insight into the issues of common concern. This can be done through spurring university students to acquire the skills of scientific research, creating strong bonds between science and academia, and prioritizing social issues in such a way that achieves social development.

The opening ceremony was attended by H.E Abdul Rahman Mohammed Ali Othman, Speaker of

in addressing the key issues that preoccupy the Association and its members.

The Rule of Law as Basis of Good Governance

Good Governance

The concept of good governance involves value judgments on the exercise of political power to steer the affairs of society and to achieve progress and development. It also implies effective democratic governance based on participation, accountability and transparency, and is heavily reliant on the integrated functions of the state and its institutions, as well as the private sector and civil society organizations.

Good governance is practiced by elected political leaders and administrative functionaries, who are committed to the development of community



the Shoora Council of Yemen, H. E Muamar Al-Eryani, Minister of Youth and Sports, and a host of politicians, scholars, parliamentarians, researchers and intellectuals.

Competing students submitted researches on bicameralism, the rule of law as a principle of good governance, and the maintenance of peace and security to achieve development in Arab and African countries.

The first three winners were awarded invaluable cash prizes, while other participants were granted token awards to encourage them into conducting informative researches in the future. Accordingly, the function would create an awareness of the importance of scientific research as well as the researched-upon topics, spur university professors to give a special attention to academic studies, and ginger up students to augment their knowledge.

In conclusion, the program would achieve the objective of involving academic research institutions

resources and the upliftment of citizens' wellbeing and quality of life through public acquiescence, support and participation. The management of public affairs through good governance involves three dimensions that are closely interrelated in such a way as to produce good governance. The first is the political dimension, which is relative to the political power and its legitimacy; the second is technical in nature, which is related to public administration, its efficiency and its effectiveness. The third such parameter has to do with economic and social issues as well as the extent of civil society's vitality, its independence from the state, and the nature of its structure. Further, it tackles the nature of public policies centered on social and economic issues, and their impact on the general public.

Rule of law:

The concept of the rule of law means absolute predominance or supremacy of ordinary law of the land over all citizens, no matter how powerful.

This principle entails that individuals, persons and government shall submit to, obey and be regulated by law, and not arbitrary action by an individual or a group of individuals regardless of their faiths, political leanings and/or ideology.

In a political system which adheres to the paramountcy of the rule of law, the law is supreme over the acts of the government and the people.

According to the United Nations, the rule of law:

“ refers to a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards.”

Dr. Tharwat Badawi distinguished between the principle of the rule of law and the state's subordination

Furthermore, government systems do vary in terms of their merits and demerits in the sense that some may be fit for certain countries, others may not.

Yet, good governance remains as the best and most supreme system, as it is based on myriad benchmarks, including transparency, participation, adoption of strategies for development strategies, respect for human rights and liberties, and anti-corruption mechanisms .

Most importantly, the rule of law necessitates that all people, including the rulers and the ruled alike, must subordinate to law. This means that their behaviors, actions and dealings should be in tandem with law. Accordingly, the rule of law is the cornerstone of good governance, as it prevents dictatorship , protects citizens' rights and liberties, and acts as a mechanism for fighting corruption. It also prevents monopoly on public office, favoritism, and prioritization of special interests on the part of those in charge. Equally



to the law. He is of the view that the rule of law originates from a political notion that has to do with the organization of public authorities, a notion that aims to raise the legislature above the executive arm of government. Accordingly, the rule of law is solely applicable to the executive, while the principle of state's subordination to the law entails that all public authorities must be subject to law . Hence, it is a legal principle intended to favor individuals and protect their rights in the face of dictatorship.

The rule of law is one of the key standards of good governance. The fact that the rule of law is the most crucial pivot of good governance cannot be overemphasized. Therefore, it is significant to explain both the concept and components of the state of law.

important is the fact that the rule of law is a key pillar of democracy, as it entails full abidance by the laws enacted by the legislature whose members work as representatives of the people. It also positively impacts several socio-economic and political aspects of life, and contributes immensely to the achievement of equality before the judiciary. In short, it is indispensable to good governance.

Rule of law as basis of good governance:

The state of law:

The state of law can be defined as the state wherein law and order prevail in such a way as to subject all, including the rulers and the ruled, to the law, and where all stand at the same distance from the law, thus ensuring that their behaviors, activities and



transactions are in full compliance with the law.

Law has two definitions as follows :

1-Law , in the broad sense, involves all legal rules and regulations that make up the legal system of a country. These include the constitution, ordinary legislation, and administrative decisions drawn from abstract and general rules.

2- The second such definition envisages the extent to which the law respects individuals' rights and freedoms, achieves justice, and shuns violating rights and freedoms, and/or serving the interests of rulers and governing authorities.

Components of the state of law:

1-The composite components of the state of law includes the following:

1-The existence of a constitution that explains the rules of exercising power as well as the conditions for and mechanisms of exercising same. The Constitution is regarded as the key guarantor for the state's submission to the law, as it establishes the legal existence of the state. Thus, it tops the state's legal system hierarchy, followed by other laws and regulations.

2- Separation of the three powers of the state- the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. This principle entails the distribution of functions and activities of the State to the said authorities, and stemming the concentration of power among oligarchs; it also indicates that each authority exercises a distinct jurisdiction. Therefore, the principle of separation of powers serves as a weapon against tyranny , and guarantees respect for rights and freedoms. The independence of judiciary is considered as an embodiment of this precept.

3-Observance of rights and freedoms: The rule of law guarantees individuals' exercise of their rights and freedoms, which are the main focus of the rule of law.

4-Regulation of judicial oversight on administrative functions, the constitutionality of laws and their compatibility with any constitutional provisions.

5-Subordination to law in the sense that its rules curb people's behaviors and actions. Accordingly, submission to law by the governed and the governors represents both the essence and backbone of the principle of the rule of law as well as the most critical requirement of good governance.

Good Governance Criteria:

1-The Rule of law.

2-Adoption of anti-graft policies.

3-Respect for rights and liberties, protection of same, and gaining confidence of citizens.

4-Pursuit of development and adoption of relevant strategies while properly harnessing, rather than squandering, the available resources.

5-Transparency, participation, and separation of powers in such a way as to achieve plurality for the purpose of steering public affairs.

In conclusion, one can say that should any government system seeks to embrace good governance , it must work towards ensuring submission to the law, and then take all the necessary steps for the achievement of this goal. These involve the inclusion of relevant legal rules into the constitutional provisions, particularly those related to the protection of individuals' rights and freedoms; they also require exercising effective judicial oversight that guarantees the enforcement of appropriate punitive measures in case this precept was breached. Genuine efforts should also be geared towards the achievement of equality and justice, the elimination of all obstacles to the rule of law, and spreading awareness of the importance of the rule of law among community members. Free media can play a major role in this regard. Further, the rule of law should be the focus of researchers' and scholars' interest, particularly with respect to the positive effects of this principle on various aspects of life, be they socio-economic, political, developmental, legislative or otherwise. Hence, it is imperative that all stakeholders, including the state, individuals, the public and private sectors, and civil society organizations, unite ranks in order to attain this lofty goal.

- *Synopsis of research conducted by the first winner of ASSECAA's Cup of Excellence Khair Allah Yahya Al-Saifuni, College of Sharia and Law, Sana'a University.*

ASSECAA CUP FOR EXCELLENCE 2014

“ The relationship between development and democracy “ : Malaysia – Turkey and Iran as examples .

We can distinguish between three perspectives when approaching the relationship between development and democracy by priority.

The first perspective believes that democracy is a dependent variable and democracy is an independent variable . Democracy could not be achieved without accomplishing high levels of income , education , health ,high awareness among individuals and respect of rights of others as preparation for democracy

This is what the theories and ideas of the seventies of twentieth century deliberated on .

The second perspective believes that development is a dependent variable while democracy is an independent ; in addition , they believe that the institutions which respond to the aspirations of the people can achieve de-



mocracy as the demands of the people are no more than the demands of the development.

This concept was prevailing since the late eighties to the beginning of the twenty-first century based on good governance .

The third perspective believes that it is wrong to differentiate between democracy and development as each of them is considered as natural rights for individuals who seek to achieve them .

The relationship between development and democracy (a case study of Malaysia , Turkey and Iran as models for this relationship) :

No one can deny the positive changes – political and development that took place in Malaysia , Turkey and Iran ; it is fair to say that these countries have decided to turn to be competing countries at the political and developmental levels, but there are differences in degrees of priority from one country to another .



There is a close correlation between them , as development brings welfare to individuals that enable them to choose freely , as well as democracy is a trait that has value in its essence represented by freedom ,and absence of coercion , oppression and domination .

The researcher concluded that :

-Democratic system cannot be established without the availability of basic ingredients of government, regime and ruling institutions.

- Democracy can create development when there is stability and the state is given the opportunity for making change and achievement .

-Individuals are responsible for choosing (through election); the elected official is liable before them .

-Democracy , in addition to being a thought of regime , has other benefits as its contributions to the satisfaction of people on government performance .

-Democratic countries are more flexible in achieving the people's aspiration and government performance .

It is undeniable that these countries have changed politically , economically and developmentally ; experts and researchers agree that these countries had adopted economic and political policies which are different from those policies called by western organizations , even if they benefited , from the intellectual and methodological model , in bringing this transformation .

In the Malaysian model, if we compare the economic situation of Malaysia before 1980 , specifically before the appointment of the prime minister Mahathir Mohammad , we will find that it was classified as developing country; after that date , we will observe a significant transformation in the performance of Malaysian economy , high production rate , comprehensive development and how Malaysia managed to be among the list of developed countries within few years.

On the political aspect , and during the same period , it was observed that the system and structure of governance in Malaysia did not help the existing government in implementing its developmental plans which intended to achieve.

Accordingly , the government led by Mahathir Mohammad amended the constitution in order for its rules to



conform with the situation and allow for implementing the development projects .

Factors that influenced the development in Malaysia were :

-The idea of developmental project presented by the prime minister , Mahathir Mohammad, was right , which focused on education , scientific research , the exploitation of local resources and to get benefit from the comparative advantages of Malaysia in internation-



al trade .

-Political stability that had characterized this stage ; the prime minister said that countries will not be able to grow unless there is political stability which enables the governments to implement their projects .

-Approaches used in dealing with people , either the way by which the government came to power , or the development plan and starting the legal steps of change . These procedures began with amending the constitution , then preparing the conditions for setting up comprehensive plans and then implementing these plans .

The democratic role was reflected in two matters :

-The first : the democratic approach that the government based on to come to power (through elections) .

-The second : the methods used , namely , conformity with the existing legal rules which required modification , and the methods used by the government to convince the community to accept its project , so that they provided an opportunity to the government to work comfortably .

As to the Turkish model , over the years prior to 2002 , Turkey witnessed the biggest waves of political concern (unrest) . Successive governments were not sta-

ble because of control of soldiers (military regime) ; accordingly the governments could not perform their work without fear of the soldiers , nor military were able to lead the country by themselves or anyone they consider as satisfied to lead the country.

Because of the continuation of these precursors , Turkey had a low level of development during that period ; in a well- done procedures , Justice and development party came to power , not because of the absence of the army , but it was not classified by the law as an

Islamic party ; Accordingly , it was provided with the opportunity .

The party proved its efficiency and worth to the people , so that it approved and received its real legitimacy from them. This was not possible if the party had not made achievements to the people .

These achievements of Justice and Development party included wealth exploitation, development of resources and research ; accordingly , the economy was thriving , the standard of living was improved and the people received positive change.

Moreover , the party's popularity increased more than it was , so that the party exploited this popularity , which provided a political stability and support to it , and provided more achievements to the citizens in order to gain their support in reforming the crooked path of democracy.

It is observed that democracy in the Turkish model was not existing properly ; the best evidence is that the repeated coups by the army and the continuous prohibition for some procedures by the court , but despite of this level of democracy , it brought the party of Justice and Development to power , although its leaders were declared persona non grata (undesirable) by the army and the court .



When people found that this party achieved what the ancestors failed to do , they increased their loyalty to the party and gave it their confidence .

The party is still stabilizing the rules of democracy that will ensure the rights of politicians and protect them from the army and the court , and before that the rights of people will be protected if there are any shortcomings or negligence in government conducted.

We can conclude that democracy in Turkey , despite its low level , enabled Turkey to grow and achieve high development boom during a short period , in the sense that , if democracy was not provided to the party , it could not rule Turkey and accomplish all these achievements .

On the other hand , the achievements of the party of Justice and Development contributed in convincing the

for three terms .

Recently , there is potential agreement on a new draft constitution that may be approved . The matter will be clear after the success or failure of the party in drafting the new constitution and convincing the public for approval ; Rajab Taib Ardoghan said that the new constitution will make Turkey an ideal democratic country .

There are differences between the Malaysian and Turkish models and the Iranian model .

The crucial period in Iran history was when Shah abdicated the power and Imam Khomeini returned to Iran in 1979 ; at that date , the current constitution was prepared , and Iran identified its friends and enemies , that it still deals with them on the same pattern till now.



people that its vision was right and people touched its achievements , accordingly , the party exploited these achievements to make a democratic transformation that led Turkey to be a contemporary democratic country .

The relation of effect and influence between the development and democracy in Turkey model is exchanged where the development intersected with democracy in two points :

-First :the democratic regime , even though it was below the required level , has brought the Party of Justice and democracy to the power in spite of its Islamic orientation .

-Second : Justice and democracy party benefited from its achievements in development, to make democratic transformation and this led to the reelection of the party , in which the prime minister ,Rajab Taib Ardoghan , is considered to be the first prime minister to be reelected

Moreover , Iran is still pursuing the same plans prepared immediately after the revolution .

Unless that transformation happened , Imam Khomeini could not come to power and Iranians would not cooperate with him to build a strong country .

The comparison between the development and democracy in Iran is difficult , especially that Imam Khomeini himself did not call for democracy when he led the revolution , as well as there were no internal claims for democracy .

There were , only , implied calls for releasing the political prisoners and reforming the economy .

At the opposite side , the constitution provides for the free choice for the president and the law ensures the protection of people and their rights without discrimi-



nation or injustice .

The power in Iran , over the period of post-revolution , is transferred peacefully between the two parties (conservatives and reformers parties) , so that , this indicates that there is democracy in the political system and it meets the aspiration of the people if that is done actually.

Accordingly , democracy and development in Iran intersects in two points :

-The non-disclosed or (implied) democracy , as mentioned by the researcher , which was adopted by Imam Khomeini , had contributed in moving Iran to advanced level of development in the economic , military and scientific aspects .

-The current regime in Iran ensures political stability for the country , accordingly , it enables the successive governments to continue the march of development which is attained the attention of all Iranian political parties.

It could be argued that the researcher did not reach to a conclusive result proving the priority of democracy on the development in Malaysia , Turkey and Iran.

He concluded that there is differences in the levels of democracy , on one hand , and the priority of development on the other hand and that there is a mutual influence between the development and democracy concluded that :

-In Malaysia , there was democracy ,but it is not complete ; but development has actually been achieved , in the sense that the political scene has its role in the developmental progress .

-In Turkey , there was an incomplete democracy which was the reason behind the Turkish progress ; this progress led to democratic transformation stronger than before . It is expected that Turkey will witness more developmental advancements .

-In Iran , there was no democracy . The transformation that took place in Iran was not democratic , but the popular trend corresponded largely with political orientation . In addition , the political transformation (the revolution) may have its significant role in the development that took place in Iran .The matter is stopped at this level as there was no change in the Iranian democratic performance .

Recommendations :

This research presents the following recommendations :

-It is preferred to draft a new constitution for Turkey , which establishes a democratic institutions state . This

stage is considered as historical opportunity for Islamists to get rid of the prosecution of the constitutional court and the harbingers of the army .

-It is preferred to reconsider the powers granted to each of the supreme leaders and the president of Iran ; it is recommended that the supreme leader should delegate (transfer) some of his powers to the president .

-It is worthwhile that Malaysia should continue its developmental model established by the former prime minister , Mahathir Muhammad , which formed a remarkable development leap .

-Yemeni and Arab governments can get benefit from the experiences of Iran , Turkey and Malaysia , especially from the Turkish experience as there are many common characteristics among them .

-The army , in any country , should be neutral (out of the political process) as its interference creates an obsession on the entitlement of the army to supervise the performance of the government or the president so that the political scene will lose its balance.

-Establishing trade and economic relations with the above-mentioned countries will be useful due to the rapprochement of the trading system and exchange opportunities .

-Political stability is one of the most important factors for development , so Arab countries including Yemen need this political stability to build the desired state .

-Political parties should participate in the democratic process , even if it is not at the required level ; Development and Justice Party managed to change the state-building despite its non-satisfaction of the current political system and the mechanism of the governance .

-It is necessary to link the theoretical aspect of development , including researches and studies , with the practical aspect of phenomena and problems .The Malaysian model was keen to proceed with this practice .

-The political parties should be compatible as much as possible , as well as be satisfied with the democratic approach and respect the results of voting, in order to support the principle of voting-results respect and political stability .

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Part Five : ASSECAA Member States' Economies

Statistics reveal that ASSECAA member countries are endowed with abundant economic resources to the extent that some of them rank high amongst the world's resource-rich countries.

Moreover, African and Arab countries have a range of diversified potentials, which provide a myriad of economic, trade and investment opportunities that might encourage the influx of capitals and individuals into the region not only for trade and investment purposes but also for tourism.

Indeed, ASSECAA's member countries are considered as significant global tourist attractions rich in unique and exquisite cultural heritage, which is symbolic of great ancient civilizations. There is no gainsaying the fact that the region is home to a plenty of natural resources, lush eco-systems and fascinating natural reserves.

Through an effective strategy, there can be established a better Afro-Arab cooperation and partnership in economic, financial and trade spheres, let alone development and mutual investment. This would enable the countries of the two regions build up robust economies with high competitiveness on the global market.

Experts on Afro-Arab relations opine that the promotion of inter-trade would further boost sustainable development, ensure job opportunities, increase income and improve living conditions, in addition to attracting investment and eradicating poverty.

Afro-Arab cooperation requires a joint action in respect of agriculture and food security that should be significantly prioritized by optimally utilizing the resources available in the two regions. There are vast agricultural areas and plentiful water resources in Africa while Arab countries have surplus cash, which necessitates making best use of such potentials in such a way that achieves food security.

This would increase the agricultural productivity, and upgrade production and anti-pesticide tools in a manner that gives African countries more opportunities to globally market their products and get more revenues that will contribute to raising the living standards of citizens.

In this chapter, we shall dwell upon the legislation regulating investment as well as the role played by chambers of commerce and industry in ASSECAA's member countries.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia:

Ethiopia officially known as the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a country located in the horn of Africa. It is bordered by Eritrea to the north and northeast, Djibouti and Somalia to the east, Sudan and South Sudan to the west, and Kenya to the south. According to the recent census Ethiopia's population is 77 million that stands the second-most populated nation on the African continent. It occupies a total area of 1,100,000 square kilometers, and its capital and largest city is Addis Ababa.

Some of the oldest evidence for modern humans is found in Ethiopia, which is widely considered the region from which Homo sapiens first set out for the Middle East and points beyond. Tracing its roots to the 2nd millennium BCE, Ethiopia was a monarchy for most of its history. During the first centuries of the Common Era the Kingdom of Aksum maintained a unified civilization in the region.

Ethiopia derived prestige for its uniquely successful military resistance during the late 19th-century Scramble for Africa, and subsequently many African nations adopted the colors of Ethiopia's flag following their independence. Ethiopia was the only African country to defeat a European colonial power and retain its sovereignty as an independent country. It was the first independent African member of the 20th-century League of Nations and the UN. In 1974, at the end of Haile Selassie I's reign, power fell to a communist military junta known as the Derg until it was defeated by the EPRDF in 1991.

Since 1991, Ethiopia's national interests have been completely redefined, to focus on the country's internal vulnerabilities and problems, political and economic. The result, systematically laid out in the Foreign Policy and National Security Strategy, identified the major threats to Ethiopia and its survival: economic backwardness and the poverty of a large percentage of the population coupled with an understanding of the need for democracy and good governance, for the establishment of a democratic



structure and government at all levels throughout the country. Without these, Ethiopia would be unable to survive as a country. Its very existence would be in doubt.

Ethiopia is a multilingual society with around 80 ethnic groups; it is the origin of the coffee bean. Ethiopia is a land of natural contrasts; with its vast fertile West, jungles, and numerous rivers. Ethiopia has the most UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Africa.

Ethiopia is one of the founding members of the UN, the Group of 24 (G-24), the Non-Aligned Movement, G-77 and the Organization of African Unity, with Addis Ababa serving as the headquarters of the African Union, the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the UNECA, African Aviation Training HQ, the African Standby Force and much of global NGOs focused on Africa. More than 70% of Africa's mountains are found in Ethiopia. Probably due to the high altitude in the country, Ethiopians are famous for being great long distance runner

Ethiopia is also active members of IPU ,APU, and ASSECAA and has Two chamber parliaments (The House Of Federation and The House Of Peoples' Representatives)and has smooth relationships with different parliaments .Ethiopia has marvelous investment oportunities with investment friendly policies that promote green economy strategy.

Exports and Imports:

Ethiopia's imports include oil and its products, wheat, sugar, corn, cereals, steel and cars, while the exports include coffee, livestock, Khat, leather and oilseeds.

The agricultural sector yields other revenues, as the country is endowed with a good deal of livestock that meets citizens' needs of meat as the surplus is exported abroad. Besides, Ethiopia is also the 10th largest producer of livestock in the world. Other main export commodities are khat, gold, leather products, and oilseeds and processed food.

The mining sector is quite small in Ethiopia. The country has deposits of coal, opal, gemstones, kaolin, iron ore, soda ash, and tantalum, but only gold is mined in significant quantities. In 2001, gold production amounted to some 3.4 tons. Ethiopia also has other natural resources such as salt, potash, copper, platinum and natural gas.

The Ethiopian government is striving to solve the problem of population growth that raised unemployment amongst the youth to 70%. This makes it imperative for the consecutive governments to provide thousands of job opportunities annually. For this reason, Ethiopia is one of the poorest nations in the world.

Further, the country is still struggling to wipe off the effects of drought that hit it hardest, let alone the war it fought with Eritrea.

To eradicate poverty that spread due to the population explosion coupled with natural and man-made disasters such as droughts and wars, the current government has embarked on a program of economic reform, including privatization of state enterprises and rationalization of government regulation. While the process is still ongoing, the reforms have begun to attract much-needed foreign investment.

Though there is a trend to stimulate manufacturing in Ethiopia, the bulk of which is concentrated in Addis Ababa, the sector, which has shown some growth and diversification in recent years, constitutes about only 4 percent of overall economy.

A glimpse at this promising sector shows that food and beverages constitute some 40 percent of the sector, but textiles and leather are also important, the latter especially for the export market.

In addition, manufacturing is one of the sectors that attract foreign and domestic investments. However, in financial services, no foreign banks are allowed, and it remains almost impossible to find start-up loans for small and medium businesses.

Investment in Ethiopia:

There are many investment opportunities available to local and foreign investors in Ethiopia. A program to privatize state-owned enterprises, transportation and communications, has been laid out by the current government. The areas of investment include agriculture, construction and real estate, manufacturing and processing, mining, power and energy, transportation and tourism.

The Investment Proclamation No.280/2002 (as amended) provides that a foreign investor can undertake investment either:



- As a sole proprietor, with full equity ownership (100% equity ownership); or
- Jointly or in partnership with domestic investor(s), or the Government.

The Law also stipulates the following capital requirements:

- A minimum capital of 100,000\$ for a single investment project in cash and/ or in kind for wholly foreign owned investments;
- A minimum capital of 50,000\$ in cash and/ or in kind per project in areas of engineering, architecture accounting and audit services project studies or business management consultancy services; or publishing.

A foreign investor intending to invest in partnership with domestic investors is required to invest a minimum capital of:

- 60,000\$ in cash and/or in kind per project; or
- 25,000\$ in cash and/ or in kind if the investment is made in the aforementioned areas.

The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (ECCSA) is a non-profit, autonomous private sector organization responsible for trade promotion and private sector development.

- Its mandate is to promote Ethiopia's products to the world, develop international trade and promote investment in Ethiopia, thereby fostering the development of a vibrant and dynamic private sector in the country. As an effective secretariat for the private sector, it also acts to defend the interests of the business community and acts as a bridge between the government and the private sector.

ECCSA also works towards promoting trade and investment by providing demand driven service to its members and by advocating for favorable business environment based on international best practices.

Tourism:

Public services are one of the sectors privatized by the government. This sector is almost based on tourism which is being run by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Ethiopia is known for its ancient history and civilization as well as its archaeological sites that have

become fascinating tourist attractions. These include Islamic and Christian antiquities and national landmarks expressive of a great civilization that went deep into the annals of history.

Prominent among such milestones are 11 rock churches located in the small town of Lalibeia in northern Ethiopia, which date back to the 12th century.

Still, there are other antiquities such as Addis Ababa Lion Statue and museum, the walled city of Harar, Axum Zion church, Gonder's fortresses, Blue Nile rapids, Tana lake, Awash park, and Omar suf.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which is situated to the north of the Arabian peninsula, is a young democracy characterized by the existence of a multi-party system and civil society organizations.

Jordan's population amounts to 6.25 million (six million two hundred and fifty thousand people), while its surface area stands at 89.287 sq km.

Jordan's economy depends mainly on the business services sector, tourism and some manufactured products such as fertilizers and medicines.

The country has many natural resources, such as phosphate mines in the south of the Kingdom, which make the Kingdom the third largest source of this metal in the world. Other resources include potash, salt, natural gas and limestone, in addition to extractable mineral wealth.

Further, Jordan is famous for growing vegetables such as tomatoes, olives, cucumbers, citrus melons, bananas, eggplant, wheat, barley, lentils, chickpeas, and grains; it exports food products in addition to other agricultural crops.

In 1987, natural gas was discovered in Jordan, and experts estimate that there are about 150-400 billion cubic meters of natural gas. Foreign companies have made operations for exploration of oil in Jordan. According to the Natural Resources Authority of Jordan, the country's resources are still not relatively exploited.

Further Jordan has made strides in terms of literacy and education facilities, as there are a sufficient number of universities and colleges of technical education.



Investment Areas:

There are various areas of investment in Jordan as follows:

- Transport
- Education (preschool, elementary, preparatory and secondary education).
- Power generation and distribution
- Tourism (building of holidays resorts)
- Hotels, guest houses and airlines agencies.
- Hospitals and clinics
- Telecommunications, modern technologies and computers.

Jordan has six economic zones that attracted investments amounting to billions of Dollars, including Alaqabah, Mafraq, Ma'an, Agloan, Dead Sea and Irbid. It also has a lot of industrial zones that produce goods, such as textile, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

The existence of modern investment laws is considered to be the most important incentive for investment in Jordan.

Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Jordan:

Jordan, which is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), is a regional hub for information technology, communications and tourism; it is also one of the region's countries that attracts investments most.

The Union of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce was established previously and commenced its functions on 19 December, 1955 in accordance with law No.41 for the year 1949. It acts as a representative of the private sector in all economic, trade and service fields. It is also responsible for cooperation and partnership through dialogue with the private and public sectors in the kingdom, particularly government departments and Al-Ayan (House of Dignitaries) in order to achieve economic prosperity and gear its external economic relations towards serving public interest.

On the 12th of June, 2003, a provisional law (law of chambers of commerce) No. 70 was issued, and, accordingly, Jordan's chamber of commerce was established to assume the functions of the formerly union of chambers of commerce.

The main activities of the chamber include achievement of the interest of business community, provision of information, provision of advice to members, promotion of economic development, provision of economic statistics on market situations, encouragement of foreign investments and facilitation of international trade.

Investment incentives in Jordan:

Investment promotion law No.(16) and its amendments for the year 2000 is considered as an appropriate legislative framework for attracting foreign investments and encouraging local ventures. The legislation is competitive, as it includes benefits, incentives and guarantees for investment at the regional level.

Further, the law provides for custom and tax exemptions for several business sectors, including industry, agriculture, hotels, hospitals, maritime transport and railways, leisure and recreational compounds, convention and exhibition centers, extraction, transportation and distribution of water, gas and oil via pipelines.

Exemption from Custom Duties:

Jordan grants custom and tax exemptions as follows:

- Fixed assets are exempted from fees and taxes provided that they are imported into the Kingdom for investment purposes. These involve machinery, equipment and supplies, including furniture for hotels and hospitals.
- Imported spare parts intended for investment projects shall be exempted from fees and taxes provided that their value does not exceed 15% of that of the fixed assets for which they are required.
- Fixed assets required for the expansion, development and modernization of investment projects shall be exempted from fees and taxes provided that such an exemption leads to an increase in projects' productivity by no less than 25%.
- Hotel and hospital projects shall be granted exemption from fees and taxes once every seven years for the purchase of furniture and supplies required for modernization and renewal.
- Any increase in the value of fixed assets which are imported for ventures shall be exempted from fees and taxes, if such an increase is a result of a



rise in the price of such assets in the country of origin, a rise in freight charges applicable thereto, or of changes in exchange rate.

- Exemptions from income tax and social services.
- Project that falls within the sectors or sub-sectors mentioned above has the following exemptions and facilities:

25% if the project is a class A of development in the region.

50% if the project is a Class B regional development.

75% if the project is a class C development area.

The period of exemption based on the decision of the Committee is ten years from the commencement of the project, or from the date of production for industrial projects. The committee grants an additional exemption if a project was developed, expanded or modernized in such a way that leads to an increase in its productivity. The extra exemption would last for at least one year or four years maximum in return for productivity increase not less than 25%.

Investment Guarantees

- The different laws governing investment in Jordan offer equal treatment to both Jordanian and non-Jordanian investors, thus allowing the non-Jordanian investor to own any project in full or in part, or to engage in any economic activity in the Kingdom.
- The minimum capital for the non-Jordanian investment may not be less than fifty thousand Jordanian Dinars (JD 50.000) except for participation in public shareholding companies.
- The investor has the right to manage the project in the manner he/she deems appropriate, and through the person(s) chosen by the investor for this purpose.
- Non-Jordanian investors shall be entitled to remit abroad without delay, and in a convertible currency, the invested capital together with any returns and profits accrued, the proceeds of liquidation of the investments as well as the proceeds of the sale of all or part of the project.

Tourism:

Jordan is noted for medical tourism, as people hailing from neighboring countries and the GCC states, Yemen and Egypt, visit the country

for medical treatment. According to the World Bank, revenues from medical tourism in Jordan amount to \$700 million per annum.

Further, the Arab country ranks the first in the Middle East region and the fifth in the world in terms of therapeutic tourism. This can be imputed to the fact that Jordanian doctors are highly experienced in carrying out delicate cardiac, ophthalmic, renal and lung surgeries.

Jordan is one of the countries providing both physiotherapy and recreation, as its territory is endowed with all natural medicines, such as mineral-rich hot water, volcanic soil, moderate climate and breath-taking scenery. This has turned the country into a medical resort frequented by a lot of patients seeking medication.

Of the most important museums in Jordan are the Jordanian antiquity museum, Martyr Edifice Museum, Hiya Cultural Center, Relics Museum, the Jordanian University, the Cultural folklore Museum and Irbid antiquity Museum. Other museums are the Jordanian popular heritage museum, Um Qais antiquity museum, Ancient minted coin museum and Islamic shrine museum. Medical resorts include Afra saunas, Al-Hama springs, and Ma Ain (spa) saunas. In addition, The clay and mud extracted from the Dead Sea can be used for medication due to its medical benefits.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stretches over the bulk of the Arabian peninsula, bordering the Red Sea on the west, and the Arabian Gulf on the east. It has the largest oil reserves (25.6%) in the world, and ranks the first among the world's largest producers and exporters of oil.

Oil and gas revenues represent 75 % of the total returns of the economy and 45% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Other sectors account for the remaining rate of the GDP.

During the past decades, the Saudi economy made great strides in terms of oil products, petrochemicals, agriculture, and banking.

It has also opened up to global economy, as foreign investment law in Saudi Arabia was issued



on 15/1/1421 Hegira, which is considered to be the most prominent event regarding the kingdom's economic affairs, in addition to the establishment of the General Authority of Investment. According to the World Bank's 2009 business report, Saudi Arabia ranked 13th out of 181 countries in terms of investment, up from 67th in 2005.

The Key incentives enshrined in the investment law include:

- Reduction of taxes imposed on foreign investments and adoption of the principle of carrying over the loss to the next years without specifying a certain period.
- Foreign investors has the opportunity to get loans from the industrial development fund.
- Individual ownership of investment ventures is allowed, including the assets necessary for the enterprise; there is no expropriation of projects, except for public interest, and in lieu of fair compensation.
- Investment licenses can be obtained within one month.
- Information on investment in Saudi Arabia is available and transparent.
- An Investor has the right to sponsor himself and his employees and to receive equal treatment on par with Saudi citizens.
- The law includes regulations for resolution of disputes and ensures the right to equal treatment.

Saudi Arabia's Total Foreign investments amounted to \$552 billion at the end of 2009, while the total increase of foreign and joint investments amounted to \$1,126 billion, up from \$279 billion in 2005.

Investment opportunities in Saudi Arabia:

Investment opportunities worth \$300 billion in energy, \$100 billion in transportation and \$100 billion in technology – based industries. These include:

- Energy.
- Information technology and communication.
- Transportation and logistic services.
- Health
- Biology.

- Education.
- Tourism

Exports and imports

The most important exports are oil, plastic products, petrochemicals, some foodstuffs, minerals, paper and their products.

Imports include machinery, equipment, electrical appliances, foodstuffs, transportation equipment, textiles, and timber.

Foreign Investment Attraction:

The Council of Chambers of commerce and industry of Saudi Arabia, which is based in Riyadh, was established in accordance with the Royal decree 6 issued in March 1980 to represent the Kingdom's chambers of commerce at the local and international level, and to promote the role of the private sector in national economy.

The Council takes executive and legislative measures in order to attract and protect local and foreign investments. It also takes part in setting out business policies and regulations, follows up and monitors all internal and external economic changes in such a manner that fits the investment milieu.

Tourism:

Saudi Arabia is home to the holiest Islamic sites, including the Holy Mosque in Mecca, and Prophet Mohammed's Mosque in Al-Madina. Both landmarks are visited by multitudes of Muslims swarming the two sacred cities for pilgrimage and Omra (minor pilgrimage) in what can be described as religious tourism that brings huge revenues into government coffers.

Jedda, a city on the Red Sea Coast, and Al-Ahssa, a township on the Arabian Gulf coast, are the most attractive marine sporting destination.

The General Authority for Tourism and Antiquities caters for tourism. It set up dozens of museums such as the national museum, the two holy mosque museum, Masmak fort museum, and other museums named after the Saudi cities and regions, including Jedda, Mecca, Al-Taif, Tabuk, Najran and Jazan. Archaeological sites include Dareyeh, Masmak palace, Muraba'a palace, Shabra palace, Saqaf palace, Khuzam palace, Beit Nasif, Najran emirate palace, Ayref fortress, Heritage Souq, Al-Saiari mountain and Um Al-Ajrass village.



Agriculture:

About 57% of cultivated lands are concentrated in the middle region-Riyadh and Qasim emirates, 19% in the southern region spanning Jazan, Aseer, Najran and Baha emirates. Hael, Tabuk and Jawf emirates account for 13% of farmlands, while the remaining 11% is scattered over the western and eastern regions.

Food exports, including wheat, eggs, meat, poultry, dairy, and some vegetables, amounted to roughly 2 million tons in 1990.

Animal wealth varies; estimates indicate that Saudi Arabia has 7,8 million heads of goat, 4,4 million heads of sheep, 422,000 camels, and around 204,000 cattle. Fisheries are booming, as local catch stood at 49,920 tons in 1994, 50% of which was exported abroad.

Republic of Gabon:

The country is divided into nine regions, the largest of which is Libreville, the Capital.

The crops grown in Gabon are cocoa, coffee, sugar, palm oil; rubber; oakum (a tropical softwood); for cash crops production. However, Contrary to other African countries, agriculture's contribution is less than 10% of the GDP. Consequently, large quantities of foodstuffs are imported from neighboring countries like Cameroon and Europe.

Animal wealth available in the country:

In Gabon, there is huge animal wealth, including domesticated animals. Livestock farming is based on cattle ranching. The country is endowed with fishery products. Fishing intake off Gabon's coastline are evaluated to 32,000 metric tons per year and can be increased to cater for the needs of landlocked Central Africa and Chad. However, fishing industries, while making strong contributions to the national economy, are not yet fully and efficiently exploited and need private investments for their development.

Manufacturing:

Gabon manufactures food, beverages, textile, lumbering, plywood, cement and chemicals. Natural resources are available in the country, including oil, manganese, uranium, gold,, iron ore and phosphate. However, Oil plays the biggest part in Gabon economy and often accounts for up to 60% of the GDP and

80% of exports. Indeed, Gabon is the fourth-largest crude oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa and the 37th-largest in the world. But oil production has been dwindling since 1998.

Gabon's authorities are seeking a way to compensate for the decline of oil's production and boost the production and industrial transformation of other abundant mineral resources. Indeed, unless new oil fields are discovered, Gabon's policy-makers are now confronted with the challenge of finding economic alternatives to oil to boost the economy. Otherwise, the country will slowly sleepwalk into economic "recession" when existing oil fields run dry.

Nevertheless, there are promising alternatives including:

- Forestry that accounts for 85% (12.5m hectares) of the national territory.
- Timber exploitation (4,340,000 to 5 million logs per year) may garner more profits if necessary measures are taken to diversify manufacturing wood products such as house flooring, wood house kits and furniture designed for African and international markets.

Food security:

The country tries to achieve food security in light of the fact that Gabon currently imports more than 85% of its food products, a staggering percentage that poses another threat to Gabon's policymakers. This makes it imperative for them to exert substantive effort to achieve food security.

However, economic growth and diversification in Gabon is limited due to lack of skilled manpower and rising labor costs.

Further, the Gabonese authorities try to negotiate with international donors (IMF and World Bank) to obtain additional financial means. But these institutions request drastic macroeconomic measures. That is why private investments, especially foreign ventures, are strongly encouraged.

Gabon's competitive advantages:

The Chamber of Commerce, Agriculture, Industry and Mines works towards promoting economic development in the private sector, contributing to the amelioration of business climate, and promoting overall economic growth.



It provides technical assistance, consultancy and support to business firms. It also set up a database of economic operators, commercial and investment opportunities as well as consultancy. It organizes training courses to build the capacity of businessmen. In terms of economic competitiveness, Gabon joined CEMAC, a sub-regional economic community representing a market of 30 million consumers.

Business law is modern and harmonized with the Organization for the Harmonization of the Law in Africa (OHADA); Gabon boasts a strong telecommunications network; an Investment Charter has been established to structure relationships with investors and ensure transparency and accountability; Gabon's banking sector is viable and the tax regime is attractive to businesses and individuals. Hopefully, the political and social stability the country is currently witnessing would reflect positively on development and the inflow of foreign investments.

Investment Opportunities:

Gabon has investment opportunities in the sectors of agriculture, forestry, tourism, industry, its rich wildlife, food and services.

In accordance with the law, all legal entities that wish to do business in Gabon must first request a preliminary approval from the Ministry of Commerce. More specifically, the Ministry of Commerce requires information on the investment project to be undertaken, identity cards, and work license. The Ministry also requires six copies of the Rules of Procedure of the company and the minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors in which the company has decided to establish a corporation or a subsidiary in Gabon.

Business firms, mainly limited liability companies, are the most common in Gabon. Therefore, each corporation must have at least seven shareholders a board of directors and a chairman. The law does not provide that the company should be chaired by an individual. Rather, it can be presided over by a board of director.

For registration, foreign companies can open up a branch in Gabon for a maximum of two years without registering with the relevant authority.

Exports and imports

Gabon exports timber, manganese, uranium and oil to its key trading partners, including the United States, Japan and China.

The main products imported into the country are chemicals, foodstuffs, petroleum products and equipment. Import partners are the United States, France and the Netherlands.

Tourism:

Gabon is known for its rich cultural legacy that attracts foreign tourists to visit the country in quest for both entertainment and knowledge. The country is a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society whose cultural heritage is widely diverse. For instance, some tribes have special customs when it comes to marriage and dowry, while some believe that twin birth is correlated to myths.

Further, polygamy and big posterity are common among some ethnic groups, such as Fang, which believes that infertility is anathema.

This same tribe is noted for its traditional facemasks, which are an integral part of its cultural legacy. The masks are worn for ornament during folk dance or to show sadness at times of mourning. Still, some tribesmen wear facemasks during festivals and ceremonies, especially those living along Ezanga lake.

Moreover, tourists usually enjoy an assortment of Gabonese food known for its delicacy, such as fish tinged with chocolate, peanut soup, Indian potato, marrow soup, and cucumber salad. All such dishes are usually served with some appetizers, including potatoes, tomatoes, parsnip and banana.

Visitors can also tour many wonderful landmarks, such as Lopé national park, breath-taking Denis coast, and Bateke plateau, among others.

Tourists can embark on boat trips at southern lakes, such as Evaro, Onangue, Nogomo, Zile and Oyénano island. Boats often leave in the morning and sails across Ogooué lake where visitors can see a variety of birds and animals, such as rhinos, pelicans, monkeys and other wild animals.

There are many tourist attractions in Gabon, such as Boumba national park that lies on the left bank



of Komo lake tributary and near to the Atlantic Ocean. The park is covered in mangrove trees and savannahs. It also houses a research site where researchers can keep track of turtle nestling and egg hatching.

Also, of the most attractive places are Pointe Denis resort which is usually accessed by boat, and Ek-wata village, which lies offshore Nogombe city, where visitors enjoy the sight of serene blue water.

On the city's sandy beach, visitors can exercise various sporting activities, such as wave riding, arching, angling, and forest strolling. Gabon's equatorial climate is influenced by water streams coming from the Atlantic Ocean that bring temperature to an average of 25 degrees all year round.

Tourism infrastructure:

In an effort to diversify its economy, the Gabonese government works towards the promotion of tourist sector. There are many luxury hotels in Libreville, Port Gentil, Makoku and Franceville.

There are many tourist facilities under construction across the country, particularly along coastline and in townships close to national parks.

Kingdom of Morocco

The Kingdom of Morocco is situated to the northwest of Africa. According to 2004 census, the total population of Morocco amounts to 29,840,273, including 51,435 foreigners, mostly French and Spanish living in Tangier. The country's area is 800,000 square kilometers.

Morocco's Gross Domestic Product is estimated at about \$61.3 billion, with an average per capita income of \$2000. The GNP is estimated at about \$162 billion, with an average per capita income of \$5,249.

Agriculture:

The area of the country's arable lands is estimated at about 95,000 square km, according to 2003 census. The most important crops are cereals, particularly wheat, barley, maize, lentils, beans and citrus. The cultivation of fruit and olive trees is an important activity, as Morocco is the second largest producer of citrus in the world and

the seventh producer of olive oil. It is also one of the world's largest fish producers; it produced about 593,966 tons of fish in 2004, to the tune of 700,368,246 Euros.

- Services sector

Tourism occupies a leading place in the service sector, as it yields a revenue of 59 billion dirham (\$8.16 billion). In 2007, 7,407,617 tourists visited the country, a rise of about 13% compared to the previous year i.e. an estimated 16,893,803 tourists per night.

Industry

Industry constitutes about 28% of the Gross Domestic Production (GDP). This sector has seen a remarkable growth thanks to a series of agreements signed by Morocco with many international companies. Moroccan industries are fairly advanced and diversified. There are of course food and chemical industries, and the latter being second only to that of South Africa in terms of quality; pharmacological Industry is covering 90% of domestic demand, while the rest is exported to many African and European countries. Morocco is one of the leading exporters of textile to the EU. Automakers has also been existing in Morocco since after a recent agreement was signed by the Moroccan government with Runner Nissan automobile company.

Investment:

In addition to tax exemptions endorsed under public law, the Moroccan laws and regulations provide for privileges of a financial, tax and custom nature that are granted to investors in the framework of investment contracts or agreements entered into with the State, provided that these should meet the standards required.

Examples of the aforementioned privileges are as follows:

- The government covers some of the expenses associated with investment: Investment Promotion Fund;
- The government shoulders some of the expenses related to the promotion of investment in specific industrial sectors and the development of modern technologies:

Hassan II Fund for Economic and Social Development;

- Exemption from customs duties under Article 7.I of the Finance Act No. 12-98;



- Exemption from VAT on imports under Article 123 - 22 (b) of the General tax law.

Incentives of investment:

Investment opportunities abound in Morocco; however, the prioritized fields include industry, tourism, solar energy, agriculture, wind energy, and fishing.

In addition to tax exemptions granted for the investors in accordance with the law, the Moroccan law provides for certain privileges, including taxes and customs duties; this will be in accordance with investment agreements signed by the state provided that be subject to the required standards.

These standards are as follows:

- Contribution of the country to certain expenditures related to investment through The investment promotion's funds.
- Contribution of the state to certain expenditures for promoting investment in specific industrial sectors.
- Development of modern technology through Al-Hassn Althani Fund for economic and social development.
- Exemption of customs duties in accordance with article 7.1 of Finance law no.12/98.
- Exemption of added value tax (VAT) imposed on imports in accordance with clause 123 b -22 of general tax law.

Federation of Moroccan Chambers of Commerce:

The Federation provides information and assistance for Moroccan companies on issues related to international trade. It also plays an important role in producing administrative documents such as certificates of origin and membership cards.

Moreover, the Federation is sometimes associated with foreign chambers of commerce which can provide assistance and information to Moroccan exporters through their business trips.

Imports & exports:

Exports:

Morocco's key exports include phosphate, iron and steel.

Imports:

The country imports oil, manufactured goods, agricultural products, clothes, machinery and equipment.

Tourism in Morocco:

The Ministry of Tourism and Traditional Industries is in charge of the tourist sector, which is one of the key pillars of the Moroccan economy. Morocco is characterized by tranquil tourist environment abuzz with landmarks and archeological sites frequented by visitors.

There are many such landmarks such as Al-Wadiya house, Hassan minaret, Bujuld walled gate in Fas, Al-Manara groves, Aghno gate in Murakush, Bab Al-Masoor La'alaj, Kutubaih Mosque, Uzud cataracts in Azla, Al-Fana Mosque and Tarudant city walls.

Republic of Yemen

The Republic of Yemen is located in the southernmost tip of the Arabian peninsula, and to the southwest of Asia. It commands two of the most strategically important waterways: the Gulf of Aden in the Arabian Sea and Bab Al-Mandab straits in the Red Sea. Yemen's population is 23,154,000 as per 2004 census, while the surface area stands at 5,478 sq km.

The country has a coastline of 2600 km, in addition to 250 strategic islands, including Socotra archipelago in the Arabian sea, Hunashi archipelago, and Mune island in the Red Sea.

The Yemeni government, backed by the UN, Friends of Yemen and international donors, is seeking to develop more sustainable alternatives to oil, including agriculture, fisheries, tourism and industry.

Exports and imports:

Oil is Yemen's most important export commodity, as it forms 92% of the country's overall exports and 30% of GDP. The country produces some 250,000 barrels per day. In 2002, the overall oil production amounted to 440,000 barrels per day. Yemen ranks 33rd out of 206 countries in the world with respect to gas reserves, which are estimated at 478.5 billions cubic meters.

Exports include crude oil, gas, fish and coffee, while imports include food commodities, machines,



chemicals. The total value of Yemen's annual exports amounts to \$6,682 billion against \$9,627 million.

Agriculture

Yemen is characterized by diverse topography, hence the diversity in its agricultural products. The country largely depends on rains and underground water for agriculture. Yemen's terrains are traversed by a number of wadis and valleys.

Key agricultural crops are millet, maize, wheat, Mango, banana, papaya tree, melon, citrus, pear, apples, peach and grapes. Official and unofficial efforts have so far failed to uproot the home-grown and locally-consumed Khat tree, which yields no revenues but occupies almost 50% of arable lands.

Investment laws:

Investments in Yemen are governed by the new investment law No. 22 enacted in 2002. The legislation aims to encourage foreign investment in the fields of industry, agriculture, fishing and tourism... etc.. To benefit from the advantages offered by this law, an investor must obtain an investment license from the concerned authority within 15 days from receipt of business file.

Key investment incentives include:

- Foreign companies are treated on equal basis with their local counterparts.
- Arab and foreign investors are allowed to lease or buy land or buildings during the project's implementation period.
- Imports of goods intended for breeding livestock and fishing are exempted from customs duties and taxes, while capital equipment meant for other projects are exempted of 50% of customs duties and taxes.
- Profits of investment projects are exempted from taxes for a period of seven years.
- Royalties are exempt from taxes for a period of 5 years.
- There are no restrictions on the transfer of capital and profits as well as there is no restriction imposed on currency exchange.

The 2008 Republican decree 28 on chambers of commerce and industry and their federation was intended to keep up with economic development,

increase the role of the private sector and embody the new economic policy of the Republic of Yemen that aims at enhancing partnership with the private sector and encouraging its development.

Investment Opportunities:

Investors seeking to set up ventures in Yemen can get a lot of opportunities in the agricultural sector with cheap labor and bustling markets, let alone the fertile soil and moderate climate conducive for the production of cash crops.

The transport sector, including airports, ports and road infrastructure, has seen a considerable development.

Tourism:

Tourism, a promising sector, has been rapidly growing since 1990, except for the drop it experienced from 2011-2012 due to the political unrest that reigned in the country at the time.

The UN's World Tourism Organization estimates that the sector will grow steadily at an average of 10% compared to 7% in other Middle East countries. In addition, the World Council of Travel and Tourism reveals that the economy of travel and tourism, which will reflect positively on employment and export revenues through foreign visitors, would grow by 16.4% by 2019.

Tourism in Yemen:

Yemen has promising tourist attractions; however, revenues from the tourist sector are still too small given the available potentials.

In the governorate of Sana'a, there are many places to visit, including Prophet Shuaib mountain, which is located in Bani Matar area at a height of 3,666 meters above sea level, Ahmed mount which is located in Al-Haima at a height of 2400 meters above sea level, Jabal Al-Ar and Badaj, which are 2240 m and 2080 m high respectively.

Consecutive ancient civilizations had existed in Yemen, as evidenced in the archeological sites and landmarks scattered across the country. There are many historic cities in Yemen which are known for their magnificent architecture such as Tarim in Hadramout, the Old city of Sana'a, Shibam Hadramout, and Zabid, the last three were placed on the UNESCO list of world heritage.



Yemen has lots of forts that have been standing on mountaintops for hundreds of years. Besides, the country has diverse terrains and climate, thereby attracting tourists throughout the year.

There are many areas known for marine tourism such as Socotra, Kamaran and Hunaish archipelagoes, where visitors can enjoy swimming, diving amid coral reefs, and recreation.

Further, there are many saunas destined for medical tourism, including Damt volcanic steam bath in Dalea governorate, Ali steam bath in Dhamar, and hot springs in Hadramout. Taiz is the cultural capital of the country, which is bustling with cultural centers and intellectuals.

Republic of South Africa

The Republic of South Africa is situated in the southwestern part of Africa, with an area of 471008 sq km; the population is 49 million.

The country is a popular tourist destination, and a large amount of revenues comes from tourism.

South Africa is an agrarian country par excellence; it is one of the world's largest producers of chicory roots, grape fruit, green maize, maize, castor oil seeds, sisals, and pear and fiber crops.

The government is encouraging businessmen in the field of biotechnology, information technology and other areas of modern technology. Many companies have been established in South Africa in what can be described as a step forward towards diversifying the economy to be more dependent on advanced technology. Indeed, South Africa can neither compete with the economies of the Far Eastern countries in manufacturing, nor rely on the mineral wealth forever.

Investment Regulations:

The government plans to make it easier to do business in South Africa by setting up a national one-stop shop for investment approvals, reforming BEE codes, and simplifying the red tape required of small businesses.

South Africa has a well-developed and regulated competition regime based on best international practices.

The country's economic system is predominantly

based on free market principles. However, as in most developed economies, competition is controlled.

The Competition Act of 1998 fundamentally reformed the country's competition legislation, substantially strengthening the powers of the competition authorities along the lines of the European Union, US and Canadian models.

Tax regulations

South Africa has a well-developed and regulated taxation regime based on international best practices. Here are the tax basics for foreigners investing or working in SA.

The tax regime is set by the National Treasury and managed by the South African Revenue Service (Sars). Some key points are:

- Business profits are taxable in South Africa if the business is conducted in SA.
- Income from services is taxable in South Africa if the services are rendered in SA.
- Businesses must file annual income tax returns with Sars.
- Businesses may select their own financial year-end.
- For individuals, the tax year runs from 1 March to 28 February.
- Two provisional tax payments based on an estimate of annual income are made during each financial year, the first after six months, and the second at the end of the financial year.

Exports:

The country is the world leader in several specialized manufacturing areas: it produces and exports more gold than any other international competitor, and also exports considerable amounts of coal; and it leads in the field of mineral processing to form ferroalloys and stainless steels.

Areas of investment

There are several areas of investment in South Africa, such as tourism, agriculture, livestock development, and construction. The service industry is undergoing rapid growth at the moment.



Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which is formally known as South African Chamber of Business (SACOB)), comprises almost 50 constituent chambers, in addition to approximately 20,000 small, medium and large enterprises across the breadth of the nation. The chamber is a lifeline to businessmen.

Large enterprises are generally direct members of SACCI while small and medium enterprises are members through more than 50 local and regional chambers and 15 national associations.

Tourism:

South Africa played host to the world cup tournaments held in 2010. It is a buzz with a wide range of tourist activities to the satisfaction of visitors seeking adventures, recreation, and sand skating, which has rapidly grown in recent years.

For those seeking excitement, they can exercise sand skating, crocodile cage diving in Kango wildlife ranch. They can also exercise bungee jump over Bloukrans bridge, the highest bungee jump place. Air skiing is exercised in Durban and Kurman. For those not fond of excitement, there are other alternatives, such as safari and zoos, where visitors can see wild animals from behind walls.

Tourists can also visit Garden route, a long coastal road leading to Golf courts, ancient forests and isolated artist communities, shopping malls, sculptures, serene mountainous parks, coasts, and recreational places. Tree enthusiasts can visit the world's largest pawpaw tree in Sunland, where they take drinks at the tree bar.

South Africa is a sunny country where visitors can bask comfortably and engage in safaris. It has long been a favorite destination for tourists seeking medical treatment, as it is located in the proximity of Europe.

Though accommodation and food costs are exorbitant in South Africa, they are still 50% less than the US.

Tourists visit South Africa every year to enjoy serene and fascinating sceneries, recuperate or get quality medical services, as the country has highly competent medical doctors. It is worth mentioning that the first heart transplant surgery was carried out in Cape Town in 1967, making the country among

the leading countries in terms of medical tourism.

The State of Qatar:

Qatar is one of the smallest Arab countries in terms of both land mass, which amounts to 11,521 sq km, and population. Qatar is a resource-rich country, and this is why unemployment rate is too slight at only 0.3%.

Qatar's oil production reached 733,000 barrels per day (according to the statistics of 2010); it has huge deposits of liquid gas. The Gross Domestic Production (GDP) is almost \$1,730,2 billion, with a growth rate of 20%. The country's per capita income stands at \$102,700.

Further, Qatar is the world's third largest gas exporter, having some 14% of the world's gas reserve. Its gas output rose to 17.9% or 5.8 billion cubic meters, the highest in the Middle East.

The northern gas field, the largest in the world, which was discovered in 1971, produces the bulk of Qatar's gas, and accounts for 20% of the world's gas reserve.

Investment fields:

The terms and conditions for foreign investments are set forth in the investment law 13 for 2000 as follows:

- Exploitation of available natural resources (fishing, fish farming).
- Production of local crops for domestic consumption and export.
- Improvement of animal wealth.
- Human development (universities, technical education)
- Transportation (land, air and water).
- Schools education development (kindergarten, primary and secondary schools).
- Power generation and distribution.
- Tourism (building of holiday resorts, hotels, Guest houses, airlines operation).
- Hospital and clinics.
- Production and importation of medical equipment / drugs.
- Telecommunications and modern technologies (mobile operators, computer services and training).



The areas that fully absorb foreign investments include industry, agriculture, tourism, education, health, exploitation of natural resources, energy, technical services, information technology, cultural and sport services. Foreign investments are not allowed in banks, insurance companies and trade firms.

Joint investments are allowed in all areas, where foreigners can get 49% of any investment venture while locals can get 51% and above.

Exports:

Qatar's key exports include liquefied natural gas, petroleum, fertilizer products, iron and steel.

Imports:

The Gulf country imports machinery, transport equipment, food products and chemicals.

Investment incentives:

Qatar is blessed with a solid base of attractive investment package. It is a politically and socially stable country and production conditions favor the engagement in the vast power consuming industries in light of the fact that the country has the largest single concentration of non associated gas in the world, which has earned it a remarkable edge on economic advancement.

The country is located in the hub on the gulf region, and being a peninsula gives it longer shorelines and so more maritime access routes to the world, which makes it more competitive as a center for international investment. In addition, the Qatari economy is market oriented; and the State continually enacts and updates legislation to bolster the trend of economic openness towards all countries of the world.

Customs charges and bureaucratic or procedural restrictions are minimal or non-existent with regard to all transactions including repatriation of foreign capitals; and legislation is in place to provide incentives and facilities that could help raise the profit margins of investments.

The State gives topmost priority to infrastructure including roads, utilities, ports and communications to bring about economic diversification, attract foreign investments and help increase the sources of national income.

Qatar facilitates the recruitment of the foreign workforce required for the development projects of the country.

Foreign investors are allowed according to the Qatari investment laws to invest in all national economy sectors provided that they have a Qatari partner who has a share of at least 51% of the capital of the joint venture and that the company is duly established in accordance with the provisions of the law of commercial companies.

According to an approval from the Minister, the shareholding of foreign investors in joint ventures can surpass the limit of 49% and reach up to 100% of the capital in selected sectors such as agriculture, industry, health, education, tourism, development of natural resources or energy and mining, on condition that the projects in question are in line with the country's development objectives; give priority to optimizing the utilization of and add value to local raw materials and local products; are export oriented; introduce new products; use new technologies; seek to introduce industries to international fame and develop the national human resources.

Based on an Emiri decree, The Qatari law allows full shareholding of foreign investments in sectors such as industry, agriculture, mining, energy, tourism or contracting provided that the investment is geared to develop the industry in question or provide a public utility or service that serves the best interests of the community. The law also allows non-Qatari investors to import the required materials that are not available locally for their projects.

Qatar is committed not to impose any additional restrictions on foreign investments in Qatar in order to avoid undermining the requirements of fair competition between foreign and Qatari capitals. However, foreign investors are not allowed to invest in the fields of banking, insurance, commercial representation and real estate purchase.

Exports:

Qatar's key exports include liquefied natural gas, petroleum, fertilizer products, iron and steel.

Imports:

The country's imports include machinery, transport equipment, foodstuffs and chemicals.



The Chamber of commerce of Qatar was established in 1963 and has been working as one of government departments until law 11 for 1990 was passed, turning the chamber into an autonomous public welfare institution.

Though the chamber is autonomous members were appointed through a royal decree till law 11 for the year 1996 was issued, providing for the direct election of the chambers' board of directors.

In April, 1998, Qatar's chamber of commerce witnessed the first real democracy through the election of a board of directors comprising 17 members. The chamber seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- 1- Organizing commercial, industrial and agricultural interests.
- 2- Representing and defending the private sector.
- 3- Promoting and supporting economic and productive activities.

Tourism:

The General Authority for Tourism works towards supporting the tourist sector which currently has lots of exhibition centers with an area of 9 sq km, thus turning Qatar into a major hub for business and international conferences that attract more visitors. Doha plays host to a variety of high-profile international diplomatic and cultural activities.

Qatar has now an exhibition center with an area of 15,000 square m. There will be added two new conference and exhibition halls with a total area 95,000 sq m by 2011, which makes Qatar a landmark destination for tourists and business and international conferences. Doha used to host a large number of high-profile cultural and diplomatic conferences. Further, Qatari citizens embrace new ideas and warmly welcome visitors as guests and friends. Qatar represents a vector for deep-seated traditions.

The most important tourist sites are:

- Celine Beach Resort:

It is 25 kilometers away from the capital Doha. The resort offers a wide choice of rooms, villas and chalets.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is located to the west of Africa. It is the largest African country as well as the largest black country in the world in terms of population that stands at almost 154 million; it has an area of 923, 768 sq km. It is bounded by Benin on the west, Chad and Cameroon on the east, Niger in the north, and the Gulf of Guinea on the south. Abuja is the capital of the country, which was established in 1991.

Nigeria has an array of natural resources, mainly oil and water, with the latter constituting the sinew of agriculture.

Two main forms of agriculture are prominent in the state namely, food crop production and industrial crop production. The food crops produced include rice, yam, cassava, fruits and vegetables, in addition to mangoes, pawpaw, pineapples, banana, pepper and tomatoes.

The industrial crops include rubber, oil palm and palm kernel.

Further, oil is the key pillar of the economy as well as the bridge of friendship with different countries. Nigeria is the sixth largest exporter of oil in the world and the fifth-largest exporter of oil to the United States. It is also the United States' largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa, largely due to the high level of petroleum imports from Nigeria, which supplies 8% of U.S. oil imports--nearly half of Nigeria's daily oil production.

Bilateral trade between Nigeria and the US in 2010 was valued at more than \$34 billion, a 51% increase over 2009, largely due to the recovery in the international price of crude oil. In 2010, U.S. imports from Nigeria were over \$30 billion, consisting overwhelmingly of crude oil. Cocoa, bauxite, aluminum, tobacco, waxes, rubber, and grains constituted about \$73 million of U.S. imports from Nigeria in the same year.

Areas of investment:

Nigeria was recently recognized among the five most industrial destinations of the world by 2015. It has one of the fastest growing telecommunications markets in the world; major emerging market operators (like MTN, Etisalat, Zain and Globacom) abasing their largest and most profitable centers in the country. The government has recently begun expanding this in-



infrastructure to space based communications. Nigeria has two space satellites which are monitored at the Nigerian National Space Research and Development Agency Headquarters in Abuja.

The country has a highly developed financial services sector, with a mix of local and international banks, asset management companies, brokerage houses, insurance companies and brokers, private equity funds and investment banks.

Nigeria also has a wide array of underexploited mineral resources which include natural gas, coal, bauxite, tantalite, gold, tin, iron ore, limestone, niobium, lead and zinc. Despite huge deposits of these natural resources, the mining industry in Nigeria is still in its infancy.

Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA):

The Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture is the umbrella organization for all the city/state and Bilateral Chambers of Commerce within the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It represents businessmen before the government, protects their interests, and provides prospective investors with the latest information on a variety of investment opportunities in Nigeria.

Nigeria offers a wide variety of tourist attractions such as the Wikki Warm Springs as well as the Yankari sanctuary located around the Gagi River. The reserve covers over 2 sq kms of savanna woodland and is well-stocked with elephants, baboons, crocodile, hippopotamus, and buffalo, among other things.

The Wikki Warm Springs are one of the best features of the game reserves. Flood-lit at night, it is wonderful to relax in the warm water. The park is inhabited by a variety of birds, including the huge saddlebill stork, goliath heron, bateleur eagle, vultures.

The Mambilla Plateau, in the southeast corner of Taraba State, shares a border with Cameroon. A high grassland plateau averaging about 1800 meters, it is scenic, cool and a pleasant change from the heat and humidity. Mambilla has cattle ranches, tea plantations and rolling, grassy hills, and is home to some rare species of birds and animals.

Gashaka-Gumti National Park:

Gashaka-Gumti National Park is located to the southeast corner of Taraba State, adjoining the Mambilla Plateau. It contains Nigeria's highest mountain, Chapal Waddi as well as swaths of guinea savanna, gallery forest, moist forest, mountain forest and grassland. Many rivers flow through the park, including the Taraba, a major tributary of the River Benue.

Nigeria also has many rivers and reserves such as Kam River and forest reserves of Bashi-Okwango and Oban, one of the richest in Africa. The Kainji National Park is another tourist attraction. This Park, in Kwara State, incorporates the Borgu Game Reserve and Zugurma Game Reserve to the southeast in Niger State.

Coconut Beach is a beautiful beach in the coastal town of Badagry, west of Lagos. The beach is attractively set in an area surrounded by coconut trees. About 20 miles towards the border of Nigeria and the Republic of Benin, Coconut Beach is accessible through the Lagos-Badagry expressway.

Bar Beach, also known as Victoria Beach, Beach Tarkwa Bay is a sheltered beach along the Lagos harbor.

Calabar Beach:

This superb beach is located at the mouth of the new Calabar River. The beach is virtually isolated and lends visitors the luxury of privacy, because it is flanked by a swamp and can only be reached by boat or canoe. Other awe-inspiring beaches include Lekki Beach along the Lekki Peninsula, and Eleko, the newest of Lagos' Beaches, down the Lekki Peninsula about 30 miles from Lagos.

Other tourist attractions in Nigeria include the Oqbunike Cave, Yankari game reserve, Ushafa and lower Usman dams, the confluence of the Rivers of Niger and Benue.

Promising investment opportunities are available in Nigeria's tourist sector as follows:

- Building of tourist lodges
- Building of reception centres at Natural/Physical Attractions
- Provision of cable bus system to take tourist through the very rugged but scenic terrain of the mountains especially in Kanyang, Obudu and Mambilla Plateau Construction of lodge cabins



for expedition tourist and rangers.

- Establishment of hotels and resorts near waterfalls, springs, caves and temperate climate areas such as Obudu, Jos and Mambila Plateau.
- Development of water transportation Provision of educational facilities for water skiing and swimming.
- Development of arts and crafts which constitute symbol of the people's cultural values and love for nature.

Business Opportunities:

Transportation in Nigeria has attained a high level of good transportation system especially Airline and Road Transportation, investment opportunities are still needed in water recreation transportation and rail services. Meanwhile, most of Nigeria's beautiful beaches locations are still largely without accommodation facilities, which are targets for investors in most tourism destinations across the globe.

For more information, please visit the following website:

www.tourism.gov.ng

Kingdom of Bahrain

The population of the Kingdom of Bahrain is 1,234,596 living on an estimated area of 750 sq km. According to the UN Heritage Foundation's Economic Freedom Index for 2006, and Wall Street Journal – the economy of Bahrain is considered to be the most liberal in the Middle East and ranks 25th in the world. The Kingdom's economic development is imputed to a range of measures taken by the government to tackle the gradual decrease in oil production.

Further, the country's economy is branded as a modern one due to the fact that it has sophisticated telecommunication and transport infrastructure. There are many international companies operating in Bahrain.

The Kingdom has upgraded its heavy industries, banking sector and tourism; therefore, it is considered to be the main banking hub in the Gulf and the center of Islamic finance.

It has benefited from the oil boom seen in 2001, which led to economic growth and attracted investments from the GCC countries that contrib-

uted to the development of infrastructure and other projects. This has gone a long way in improving living standards and services, such as health, education, housing, electricity, water supply and roads.

Oil and natural gas are the country's main resources that yield 60 % of its revenues.

Bahrain's industries include aluminum and its related factories, in addition to ship building and repairing.

The GCC country has made great breakthroughs on information technology and the development of programmes that provide suitable solutions to modern age problems.

The Gulf state has a considerable deposits of fisheries; however, it suffers from the dearth of arable lands that constitute only 1% of the country's area.

Since ancient times, Bahrain has been a key trade and geographical centre in the Arabian Gulf. In the past, it was an international passage for trade caravans coming and going through the Gulf and the Mediterranean, or in other direction towards the Indian subcontinent and the Far East. Hence, Bahrain was highly reputed for transit trade.

The people of this island came to have an instinctive feel for trade, and through their practice they gained an understanding of both local and foreign trade.

Chamber of Commerce & Industry:

In 1939, The General Traders' Association was established in Bahrain, becoming the first ever chamber of commerce to be created in the Gulf region. Since its inception, it has been keeping pace with economic development in the country. It also plays an effective role in enhancing the private sector's contribution to the country's development.

In addition, the chamber contributed to the welfare of the society, including by developing and supporting its economic institutions, and providing various services to such institutions in such a way that achieves development and economic growth.



Areas of investments:

Bahrain has long been the most optimum destination for investments in the Middle East due to its conducive business environment that provides competitive advantages to investors and entrepreneurs seeking to do business there. It also offers tempting legislative incentives with an aim to attract more investors into the country.

The kingdom also opts for setting up joint partnerships in various fields, namely agriculture, food and pharmaceutical manufacturing, information technology, training and education...etc

Industrial areas:

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce is operating 10 industrial zones with an overall area of 2.288 hectares. It offers the opportunity of leasing such zones to investors on 25-year contracts. All basic services, including power, road networks, telecommunications, water and sanitations, are available in such areas.

Enterprises set up there are exempted from capital and raw material tax, and are granted low power tariffs.

Investment laws:

Investors are fully free to set up a wide range of commercial and industrial ventures in Bahrain, as the country's valid investment laws provide for the legal protection of investors and entrepreneurs, including by setting out relevant legal and administrative mechanisms.

Other legislations, such as the business firm law, provide for the freedom of foreign investments, including by allowing non-Bahrainis to establish associated companies.

They also allow foreigners, be they ordinary or legal persons, to own real estate, including buildings and lands.

Moreover, Bahrain set up a national committee to cater for its relations with the World Trade Organization (WTO), and make best use of the WTO's trade agreements. The move suggests that the country is taking carefully thought-out steps to embrace the principles of globalization.

Investors can have their dealings approved by government agencies in no time.

In Bahrain, there are no tariff regimes, nor is there any income tax imposed on investors.

Tourism:

Several ancient civilizations had existed in Bahrain, as evidenced in the historic archaeological sites and landmarks to which the new Bahraini generation has added new milestones. The country has lots of popular markets which are known for selling high-quality gold.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism seeks to develop a creative, dynamic and sustainable tourism industry. The Ministry's Tourism department is the key organ responsible for marketing, promotion, licensing and ensuring the quality of services, researches and statistics, in addition to product development.

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

The country is officially known as the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Population:

According to 2011 census, the population of Algeria is 36.3 million. Algeria has one of the largest economies in Africa, with an estimated GDP of \$ 120 billion. The oil sector is the sinew of the Algerian economy, accounting for about 60% of the country's overall budget, 30% of GDP and 97% of total exports. Algeria seeks to reduce dependence on oil revenues by focusing on more sustainable alternatives, mainly agriculture. To this end, the country has kick-started ambitious programs, including by encouraging the privatization of the agricultural sector. It also seeks to minimally reduce the importation of agricultural products, such as cereals, potatoes and fruits, while, at the same time, encouraging the export of dates for which Algeria is famous.

Algeria ranks 51st among 195 countries with highest GDP rates; unemployment is relatively high at 17.7%. According to 2004 statistics, Algeria ranks 17th in the world as regards unemployment. Algeria saw a considerable economic growth in the second half of the nineties, due to the World Bank support for policy reforms and the process of debt restructuring approved by the Paris Club.



Overall investments amount to about AD 2001 billion, which is equivalent to more than \$16 billion, including 730 billion Algerian Dinars or more than 60 percent, provided by the state and about 250 billion AD provided by the national economy while more than 200 billion dinars are provided by foreign institutions.

Algeria has mineral and energy reserves, which are among the largest in the world. Such deposits are available generally in the south. According to Algeria's Sonatrach company, 67% of the oil and gas reserves are existing in the Hassi Messaoud and Wadi Mia. The city of Illizi has 14% of such reserves while the rest is scattered across the country.

Mining activity in Algeria is very diverse; there are more than 30 minerals, including iron, salt, zinc, lead, barite, marble, tungsten, gold and precious metals, such as diamond, precious stones and rare metals, in addition to iron, gypsum, lime stone, cement, clay and sand.

The most important investment sectors in Algeria are energy, gas exploration, mining, tourism and agriculture.

Investment privileges:

The National Agency for Investment Development, based on Statutory Order 01 -03 on the development of the investment, provides a system applicable to national and foreign investments falling within the framework of economic activities, including the production of goods and services, as well as the investments made in the framework of granting concessions and licenses.

Privileges:

In addition to tax, non-tax and customs incentives enshrined in the law; investors enjoy the following benefits:

- Reduced rate of customs duties on imported equipment, which directly contribute to the implementation of the investment project;
- Exemption from VAT for goods and services that contribute directly to the completion of the investment project;
- Exemption from the fees incurred from the transfer of ownership of property necessary for the completion of the investment project.

- The investment project shall, after the commencement of its actual activity, get a 10-year exemption from corporate taxes, income and total payments taxes and professional tax to which dividends are amenable.
- Ordinary and legal person, whether Algerian or otherwise, from both the private and public sectors, shall be treated on the same footing with Algerians in respect of investment rights and obligations.
- The possibility of recourse to international arbitration in the event of disputes for non-resident investors.

Chamber of commerce and industry of Algeria

The functions of the chambers of commerce and industry of Algeria include the following:

- It furnishes public institutions, upon their requests, with opinions, proposals, and recommendations on a variety of issues related to trade, industry and services.
- Organizing retreats for members of chambers of commerce to enable them share their views on the proposals submitted to them by management for consideration and counseling.
- Implementing the recommendations and proposals adopted by the chamber of commerce and coordinating programs.
- Carrying out activities of common interest to chambers of commerce and encouraging the initiatives of economic actors.
- Ensuring representation at other government institutions and national forums.
- Implementing the activities aimed at developing national economy and intensifying commercial activities on foreign markets.

Algeria is currently witnessing an economic boom. Therefore, it is getting increasingly attractive for foreign investors who can set up a range of ventures, including restaurants, automakers, telecommunications, and clothing factories. Many foreign companies are scrambling to invest in different sectors, such as tourism, industry and agriculture, among others.

Furthermore, the government of Algeria offers a myriad of incentives to foreign investors as follows:

- Foreign investors are treated on equal footing with



local counterparts, meaning that no extra taxes are imposed on foreign capitals. The government also provides many advantages to foreign capitals including:

Reduction of custom duties when bringing in necessary equipment for investment projects. foreigners are entitled to the same privileges as local investors. In case of legal disputes, the investor can resort to international arbitration.

- Exemption from VAT on goods and services that directly contribute to the implementation of the project;

Exports and imports:

Algeria exports oil, gas, phosphates, fruits, vegetables and steel iron. It imports food products, consumer goods, equipment and machinery.

Republic of Sudan

Sudan's economy is largely dependent on agriculture. The area of the country's arable lands is estimated at 840,000 km². However, only 18% of such an area is cultivated. Hopefully, the process of bringing peace in to the country would help Sudan's economy recover in a manner that enables it become Africa's breadbasket.

The main agricultural products are cotton, sesame and groundnuts. Sudan is the largest producer of Arab gum and the third largest producer of sugar in Africa.

Animal husbandry is thriving in Sudan, which is home to 20,000,000 heads of livestock, 22,000,000 heads of sheep, and 18,000,000 heads of goats. The country has sprawling swathes of forests that contribute to the promotion of national economy, and produce 25 million cubic logs a year.

Investment opportunities:

In 2002, the Sudanese government established the Ministry of investment, which is currently in charge of attracting local and foreign investments, including the provision of facilities and necessary guarantees for the success of ventures.

In order to facilitate administrative procedures and remove obstacles to the flow of investment into the country, the Ministry established "The one window system" to finalize all investment-related procedures as soon as possible. Therefore, investors are

issued licenses within 72 hours from the delivery of project studies.

Investment law advantages:

Sudan's investment law provides for many advantages for investors as follows:

- All kinds of investment have the same advantages and the same treatment.
- Foreign, Arab, and local investors are treated equally in terms of rights and responsibilities.
- The law provides for flexible administrative procedures.
- It provides the necessary guarantees for investors to transfer abroad their capitals and revenues generated from their ventures.
- It proposes internationally recognized approaches to the settlement of disputes.
- The law does not stipulate a minimum capital for any investment project.
- An Arab or foreign investor is entitled to full project ownership and doesn't need to have a Sudanese partner.

Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Sudan:

The Sudanese Business Community established the chamber of commerce of Sudan in 1908 to achieve several objectives, foremost among them are:

- 1- To collect and disseminate significant business information.
- 3- To communicate with the government of Sudan regarding all business issue, and preserve business interests in the country.
- 4- To give opinions on business-related matters.
- 5- To submit all matters of common interests to competent agencies.
- 6- To liaise with other chambers of commerce when need arises, and respond to queries trickling into its offices from time to time.
- 7- To assist with the resolution of disputes through arbitration and peaceful means when need be.
- 8- To carry out all functions that contribute to the growth of national economy.

Several chambers of commerce have recently been established across Sudan, especially after local business markets had expanded while huge development projects were created.

In view of such developments, businessmen deemed it necessary to set up an umbrella organization pulling together all Sudanese chambers of commerce.



For this purpose, the Federation of Sudan's Chambers of Commerce and Industry was established; it comprises seven specialized chambers as follows:

- 1 - Chamber of Exporters
- 2 - Chamber of Importers.
- 3 - Chamber of Services
- 4 - Chamber of Information Technology and Communications.
- 5 - Chamber of Health, Education and Training
- 6 Chamber of Contractors
- 7 - Chamber of States

Every chamber consists of many departments, each of which has its own executive committees.

Other federations were subsequently established, including the federation of chambers of industry, the Federation of transport chambers, the federation of chambers of small industries and craftsmen, and the federation of agricultural chambers. These federations were then merged into one entity called "The Federation of Sudanese Employers" that seeks to achieve many objectives as follows:

- a-To encourage the development of national economy.
- b- To take part in planning national development.
- c- To create a conducive environment for fruitful relations between all business bodies in general and businessmen in particular.
- d- To provide legal protection to its members.
- e- To conduct studies and researches that contribute to the promotion of development.
- f- To lay out schemes and policies aimed at boosting economic growth.
- g- To participate in seminars and workshops tackling economic issues.

Investment incentives:

In 2002, the Sudanese government established the Ministry of Investment to cater to the interests of local and foreign investors, including by providing the necessary facilities and guarantees for the success of their investments.

Exports:

Sudan's key exports include oil, gasoline, kerosene, gas, gold, sesame, cotton, Arab gum c, sugar, meat, peanuts, hides, molasses, livestock and corn, among other things.

Imports:

The country imports machinery, capital equipment, food products, manufactured goods, transport means, chemicals, and textiles.

Investment Opportunities:

Sudan is a promising and viable country that provides investors with a variety of business opportunities in the following areas:

- Agriculture
- industry
- Oil
- Real estate
- Fisheries.
- Tourism
- livestock farming.

Tourism:

The Ministry of Tourism, Antiquities and Wildlife is in charge of tourism in Sudan. Services provided by the Ministry include licensing of the following companies:

- Companies that undertake tourist activities, and are registered in accordance with national investment laws.
- Foreign companies operating in the field of internal and external tourist transport.
- Companies with capital partnership or foreign management.

Republic of Burundi

The Republic of Burundi has an area of 27834 sq km, while its population stands at 8.3 million.. It is an agrarian country, with the agricultural production accounting for 58% of GDP. Cultivation is the main source of foreign currency.

There are two types of crops grown in the country: food crops, including beans, bananas, sweet potatoes, cassava, maize and sorghum, and cash crops, such as coffee, tea, cotton, and quinquina). It is worth noting that coffee -Arabica and Robusta- accounts for nearly 90% of the country's export revenues. The tea produced in Burundi is of high quality, and Cotton is the third export product.

The country has massive animal wealth; however, livestock farming is still in limbo and animals remain largely wild.



Water resources:

Burundi is boarding the Lake Tanganyika, which is home to a variety of fisheries. It produces an estimated 15,000 tons of fish per year. The traditional fishing system still contributes 90% of fish production, part of which is consumed locally while the surplus is exported abroad.

Burundi has massive reserves of various minerals, including nickel, copper, cobalt, platinum, iron ore, and gold. It also has deposits of phosphate, carbonate, kaolin, and limestone, in addition to precious stones which are of high value on international markets.

Federal Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Burundi:

Burundi has liberalized its economy, including by eliminating trade restrictions, pricing, and adopting negotiations with the private sector.

The Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burundi (CFCIB) is the umbrella organization for the federations of businessmen representing the private sector.

The CFCIB consists of ten chambers and two sectorial chambers as follows:

- Chamber of traders
- Chamber of mining
- Chamber of industry
- Chamber of crafts.
- Transport chamber
- Chamber of professionals and construction workers.
- Chamber of banks and insurance companies.
- Chamber of services and new technologies.
- Chamber of agriculture and business.
- Chamber of Tourism

The CFCIB has several functions as follows:

- Strengthening relations among economic actors as well as social and administrative partners.
- Implementing initiatives to support professionals in such a way that enables them develop their skills and abilities.
- Ensure full participation of professionals involved in the management of economic sectors.

Investment laws:

According to Burundi's investment law, it is not necessary that Burundian nationals own shares in foreign investment. Nor should technology be introduced into Burundian business institutions during the investment period; investment capital should not be reduced with time as is the case in some countries. Besides, no compensations are claimed upon entry of imported commodities, and foreign importers are not bound to invest in commodities available in the country.

Burundi does not set conditions for investment licensing, except for companies that apply for special incentives, such as tax benefits set forth in the investment law. The Government of Burundi does not impose restrictions on the construction of businesses, and investors are not bound to disclose confidential information to the government in the regulatory process.

Further, the government neither forces foreign investors to obtain discriminatory and/or burdensome residence visa and work permits, nor imposes any tariff barriers reminiscent of discriminatory or preferential policies towards exports and imports.

Exports and imports

Imports

Burundi's key imports are:

- Food items.
- Oil products.
- Machinery, boilers, etc..
- Vehicles other than railway
- Pharmaceuticals
- Electrical and Electronic appliances
- Salt, sulfur, stones, lime and cement.

Exports:

The country exports:

- Pearls, precious stones, and metals,... etc.
- Coffee, tea and spices.
- ores, slag and volcanic ash
- leather and clay.

Investment areas:

Burundi's investment areas include agriculture, tourism, mining, services, energy, transport, food and beverage manufacturing, financial services, real estate, health, and infrastructure.



Tourism in Burundi:

Burundi occupies a strategic location, as it lies at the heart of key regional groupings, including the economic grouping of central African countries, the economic grouping of the Great Lakes countries, the Common Market of southeast African countries, and the East African countries' economic bloc.

The country is a vital business and tourist hub due to its lush, picturesque scenery, and fascinating hills, in addition to the hospitality of the Burundian people, who are very friendly and amicable.

Burundi's strategic location gives easy access to the most awe-inspiring tourist attractions. One can just take a two-hour flight to such places, including Sirinjiti sanctuary and Zinzibar coasts.

Tourist attractions:

Burundi has a plenty of tourist attractions, including sprawling sandy and sunny beaches, where visitors can comfortably exercise marine sports, especially in Tanganyika lake.

Other tourist places include the springs of River Nile in Rutufu city, sulphuric water in Mahuiza, Stanely and Livenstion rock, and Kariara river waterfall.

Kingdom of Swaziland

According to July 2011 estimates, the Population of the Kingdom of Swaziland stands at 1,370,424 settling on an area of about 17,363 sq km.

Agriculture accounts for 8.3% of Swaziland's GDP; the key products are sugarcane, corn, citrus, livestock, wood, pineapples, tobacco, rice and peanuts.

Further, manufacturing, which forms 28.2% of the country's GDP, involves sugar refining, light manufactured goods, wood pulp, textiles, processed food, and consumer goods.

Swaziland has abundant natural resources, such as coal, quarry stone, wood, and talc.

Exports and Imports:

Swaziland exports sugar, pulp, and cotton yarns to many African countries. However, the major markets for the country's export products are South Africa (80%), the European Union (10%), Mozambique (10%). The Kingdom imports chemicals, clothing, food, machinery, automobiles, and petroleum products.

Investment opportunities:

Many investment opportunities are available to foreign investors seeking to set up ventures in Swaziland, particularly in the following areas:

- Energy and Electricity
- Telecommunications
- Agriculture
- Horticulture
- Roads and bridges
- Forestry and timber
- Industry and production
- Mining
- Tourism
- Food processing and Agro-business.
- Value Addition to Timber, Sugar and other locally available inputs.
- Bio-Energy and Energy
- Light engineering (including Automotive components)
- Pharmaceuticals
- Biotechnology
- Mining investments
- White goods (refrigerators, washing machine, micro wave ovens, etc)
- Tourism infrastructure development.

Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce

The Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce (FSE & CC) is an employer and business organization that is recognized by businesses, organized labour, government and the international community. As the voice of business in Swaziland, the objectives of the organization are to promote and protect the interests of its members and to encourage industrial harmony, productivity and prosperity for all. Founded in 2003 as a result of a merger, the Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce offers a wide range of products and services specifically designed to deliver sophisticated business development solutions to corporate Swaziland.

Other services provided include consultation and advice on industrial relations and other legal matters, employment issues, trade facilitation, training, occupational health and safety, publications



and research, and representation on statutory and non-statutory bodies. The organisation has been quite successful in the delivery of training and development solutions to a wide array of companies and organisations, and in developing applied business research solutions in the fields of marketing, human resource management and strategic management.

Investment Regulations:

Incentives on investing in Swaziland can be deemed to be comprehensive, in that they address almost every aspect of the investment process. Most importantly, issues of taxation are given due consideration. The corporate tax rate is 30% for all companies. There is also a provision for loss cover. In that regard, the unlimited loss-carry forward allows a company to carry forward its loss (given that it incurs a loss in the year of assessment), and set it off against future assessable income.

Investment inducements in Swaziland with regards to additional productive capacity are given by way of special deductions allowed in respect of new industrial buildings and of new plant and machinery brought into use in a process of manufacture, and any other similar process, or the hotel industry. The special deductions also apply in respect of second-hand machinery which has not been previously used in Swaziland and also, to leased plant.

The Government of Swaziland has identified specific areas to bolster investment (either local or foreign direct investment), and for such areas there exist a special corporate tax incentive. In investments such as; manufacturing, mining, agribusiness, tourism and international financial services; the Minister of Finance has the prerogative to nominate a certain investing company as crucial for the development of Swaziland, and thus with Cabinet approval afford it a minimum tax rate of 10% for a period of ten (10) years on withholding taxes.

Capital goods imported into the country for productive investments are exempt from import duties.

Investors who manufacture/process for the export markets can obtain funds from local banks to process their orders. The Government of Swaziland, through the Central Bank of Swaziland, guarantees loans raised for this purpose.

The liberalized foreign exchange mechanisms also allow full repatriation of profits and dividends of enterprises operating in the country. Repatriation is also allowed for salaries of expatriate and capital repayments.

Investments in Swaziland are protected from undue expropriation. Moreover, Swaziland is a Member of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) of the World Bank which provides for added legal protection of investments

Tourism:

Swaziland, which is originally a small country in comparison to other African countries, is known for modernity and innovation. Tourists visiting this country always savour the hospitality and friendliness accorded them by the Swazi people.

Tourist attractions in Swaziland include sanctuaries, wildlife and breath-taking landscapes, let alone rare wild animals such as the white rhinoceros, lions, antelopes. There are several medicines such as Isoluini and Mulikirns.

Arab Republic of Egypt

The population of the Arab Republic of Egypt amounted to 81. 395,000 at the start of 2012, an increase of 2 million people from the previous year, which was 79, 617,000.

Egypt ranked 16th in the world population and the third in Africa after Nigeria and Ethiopia. It also ranks 24th in the world in population density, thus becoming the most populous Arab country.

Liberalization Policy

The Egyptian economy is a diversified one, and has passed through several phases and many patterns; the pattern of open market is the feature of Egypt's economy that led to the increase of foreign investments.

The country's economy depends mainly on agriculture, tourism, and money remittances from expatriates abroad, in addition to oil, petrochemical industries, media and revenues from Suez Canal. It is considered to be one of the Middle East's diverse economies.

The Egyptian economy is the second largest in Arab countries, after that of Saudi Arabia; how-



ever, it is the largest non-oil-dependent economy in the region.

It ranks 11th in the Middle East in terms of per capita income. In Africa, the economy of Egypt is only second to that of South Africa in terms of GDP.

Egypt's Gross Domestic product (GDP) amounts to 200 billion. The country is a member of Group 15, which brought together the countries that apply economic development programs.

Moreover, Egypt is classified as an emerging market that is characterized by a dynamic and diverse economy as its population is incessantly swelling while the number of youth is on the rise.

Unemployment in Egypt doesn't exceed 9.1%.

Federation of Egypt chambers of commerce

The Federation of Egypt's Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which is headquartered in Cairo, was formed by the chambers of commerce in order to cater for their interests and coordinate their efforts.

The Union works for the betterment of the country by supporting its economic institutions in achieving social and economic development in its capacity as the official representative of all Egyptian business institutions.

It seek to achieve the following objectives:

- To Contribute to the development of internal trade and its schemes, and provide all necessary economic information.
- To support the trade sector in terms of meeting the challenges facing local and international markets.
- To spread awareness of the importance of business community and its contribution to the country's socio-economic development.
- To promote the competitiveness of commercial enterprises, particularly the small and medium businesses, and to train human resources in managing such enterprises..
- To promote the status of chambers of commerce before government agencies, and enhance their participation in formulating all economic laws and regulations enacted by the country's competent authorities.

The Union, which has its own legal status, is the

supreme business body that coordinates efforts of all chambers of commerce, businessmen and entrepreneurs. Therefore, it is the only legitimate representative of chambers of commerce and all business organizations to public authorities as well as the regional and international organizations.

Investment legislation:

Egypt's investment laws and regulations provide for many incentives that attract foreign investors. The most prominent areas of investment are:

1- Industry: All industrial activities are allowed; they include manufacturing, configuration, mineral exploration, and food industries, among others.

2-Technology and software programs: These involve designing and producing computer programs and applications, in addition to the creation and management of technological areas.

3- Infrastructure: This includes the establishment and management of drinking water stations, sanitations, power generation, roads and telecommunications.

4- Agriculture: Investors can engage in the reclamation of agricultural lands, and exportation of agricultural products as well as the establishment and management of fish farms, among others.

5-Construction of residential areas: This is a promising investment field, as ventures can be set up in modern industrial areas, such as the East of Tafreah and northwest of Suez Gulf. Investors can engage in the construction of industrial cities, including facilities and infrastructure projects.

-Tourism: Egypt has a favorable climate during both summer and winter, which attracts foreign investors. Tourism offers several investment opportunities, such as hotel and tourist village construction, and transport projects, among others.

- Oil products: Investors can get opportunities in oil exploration, drilling and maintenance of oil wells and riggings.

Investment Opportunities:

The investment law has been enacted in order to



attract foreign investors, so it is applicable to specified numbers of activities as follows:

- Cultivation of desert and arid lands.
- Livestock farming, poultry and fish.
- Industry and mining.
- Construction and development of industrial areas.
- Hotel and tourist village construction.
- Tourist transport.
- Air transport and direct services associated with it.
- Overseas maritime transport.
- Oil Services, including drilling, exploration, transportation and delivery of natural gas.
- Residential compounds that are rented for housing purpose.
- Infrastructure, including potable water network, sanitation, electricity, roads and telecommunications.
- Production of computer systems and softwares.

Tourism:

Below is the most important tourist attractions in Egypt:

- **South Sinai:** It is one of the areas that attracts visitors most.
- **Sharm El Sheikh:** Sharm el-Sheikh is the most tourist beach destinations on the Red Sea coast at all times; it is the favorite destination of the majority of tourists who are fond of beach tourism involving diving activity.

Further, the city is famous for natural reserves rich in eco-systems and bio-diversity, in addition to the nearby islands of Tiran and Sanafir.

- Dahab

This town is second to Sharm el-Sheikh in respect of its importance as a tourist attraction as well as the number of tourists streaming into it. It is known for its most beautiful diving areas, as well as some ancient monuments.

Moreover, the township's opportune climate and attractive ambiance allow the exercise of water sports such as sailboat riding which is unique to this area.

- Nuweiba:

The town of Nuweiba is one of Egypt's a tourist

beach destinations renowned for ancient antiquities, including Pharaoh's Island, Salahu Eddin fortress and Nuweiba citadel.

- Taba:

The city of Taba is marked by its charming landscapes, especially as its beach is surrounded by mountains. Its coastline is traversed by several bays, a strait and an island,

The easy access to this city helps to promote tourism, as visitors can get here by land or by air through its international airport.

- Ras Sidr:

The city of Ras Sidr is a marvelous tourist destination for those interested in eco-tourism and water sports such as sailing. It is also noted for its healthy sulfur resorts, and biodiversity, including fauna and flora.

- Sant Catherine:

The city of Sant Catherine is one of Sinai's most picturesque cities in terms of its high terrains; It is also surrounded by a range of mountains, including Catherine mount and Moussa mountain, a sanctuary abounding with a variety of plant and animal species.

- Arish:

The city of Arish is featured by palm orchards running along its coastline. Also, there lies close to the city the Zaranik reserve, which is home to 224 bird species, and receives more than 270 migrant birds heading to Africa from across Asia and Europe. This sanctuary was placed on Ramsar world list.

- Al-Ardaqah

Al-Ardaqah is marked by its moderate climate all year round, in addition to its historic archaeological sites and milestones, most important of which are:

- Aquatic organisms Museum, which is located to the north of Al-Ardaqah.
- Al-Hamamat valley
- Santa Pola and Anba Antonious abbey.
- Mausoleum and mosque of Abu Hassan Alshathely.
- Red Sea Islets (24 islets)

Ain Sokhna:



It is one of Egypt's most important tourist destinations.

- Plain of Hasheesh:

This is one of the largest tourist investment areas in the Red Sea. Egypt is planning to turn this township into a tourist attraction destined for wealthy visitors. It is well-known for Golf courts, Pharaonic city, which is the first of its kind in terms of Diving tourism, and Marina yacht tourism, which is one of the most exorbitant kinds of tourism in the world.

Marsa Matruh city:

This city is featured by its limpid water, fascinating colors and soft sands. It also has a wide range of historic milestones, including the Coptic Church, Rommel hideout and Cleopatra's bath. Besides, there are many natural reserves in the vicinity of the city, such as Um Algozlan and Al-Ameed.

- Luxor:

Luxor is one of the most important historical cities in Egypt, as well as a favorite destination for antiquities and cultural tourism enthusiasts. Indeed, it is brimful of historical heritage that constitutes about one third of the world's historic legacy, in addition to being the greatest evidence of Pharaonic civilization.

The key archeological sites in Luxor, include Luxor Temple, the Temple of Karnak and the Temple of Hatshepsut, Luxor Museum, King Valley graveyards, Queens' Valley, funerary temples, Dandara Temple, and Alashraf cemeteries.

- Aswan:

Aswan is characterized by the fascinating view of River Nile, the widest part of which lies in this city. It has a variety of ancient landmarks such as Philah Temple, Temples of old Nubia, Kalabsha temple, Temple of Kom Ombo, Edfu Temple, Obelisks and Aga Khan sepulcher.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania

The Population of Mauritania is 3,069,000 as per 2005 census; its surface area amounts to 1,030,700 sq km.

Economy:

Fishing is the sinew of Mauritanian economy.

Mauritania has natural features that made it one of fish producing countries. It is endowed with a 650 km-long beach on Atlantic Ocean, where hot and warm currents converged together in its territorial waters. This triggers sustained fish migration into Mauritanian waters from other areas. The country's fish exports soared from one billion Ounces in 1978 to 30 billion Ounces in 1986, which accounts for 70 % of overall export value. Since then, fisheries have become one of the most vital sectors for the country's development.

Huge quantities of fish are annually exported to all parts of the world.

Minerals:

Mauritania has a variety of minerals, such as iron, copper, gypsum and phosphate, etc ...

The opulent natural resources contribute immensely to the creation of national capitals and the advancement of the country, including by solving social problems such as unemployment, and bringing hard currency into the country.

Mauritania's iron production reaches 12 million tons; copper and gold production hit the highest record in 1970 when it amounted to 2,870 tons.

Further, the country has a considerable reserve of gold, as it has 8 major gold mines.

Agriculture:

The agricultural sector is still the most important economic activity involving a considerable part of population that crosses 53% of the country's manpower.

Investment opportunities:

Mauritania has recently adopted the policy of liberalization through the development of the private and mixed sectors. The country has an investment-friendly environment thanks to peace, justice and political stability reigning in its territories.

Moreover, Mauritania has seen an entire economic stability that attracts investors, and this is ascribed to the laws that protect investments, including the constitution as well as investment



and trade rules and regulations. Such legislation provides for the following guarantees:

- Freedom of entrepreneurship.
- Freedom of transfer (remittance) of capitals and profits.
- Access to raw material.
- Equality between the foreign and local investors.
- Right to intellectual property.
- Arbitration in case of investment-related disputes.
- Exemption from taxes and customs.
- The possibility of establishing private economic zones.

Moreover, Mauritania, which is a member of the world organization for Investment Insurance (MIGA), has started developing the infrastructure necessary for investments, such as electricity, roads, transport, telecommunications, education and health.

It has concluded bilateral agreements on the promotion and protection of investments with many countries, including Yemen.

More importantly, Mauritania is located to the northwest of Africa and overlooks the Atlantic Ocean, meaning that it is close to the European markets. It provides lots of incentives to attract investors and to facilitate their access to Mauritanian markets as follows:

- Establishment of investment authority.
- Setting up a legal framework to protect investors.
- Adoption of streamlined tax scheme involving tax reductions and breaks.

The investment law provides for setting up more liberal banking sector, as well as microfinance enterprises.

Investment opportunities

Many investment opportunities are available to foreign investors in Mauritania as follows:

- Exploration for minerals and gold.
- Exploration for oil.
- Fishing.
- Construction

Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Mauritania:

The chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture was established in 1991 under an agreement between the government of Mauritania and the French government, represented by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperation.

The chamber, which later became a specialized business agency, undertook its functions after the signing of a partnership agreement between France and Mauritania in 2004.

Since then, the chamber seeks to achieve its mission of providing, producing and disseminating business information to local and foreign economic actors.

In addition, the business outfit performs the following functions:

- Searching for, collecting and disseminating economic and technical information to economic actors on the local and international levels.
- Preparation of studies on the country's economic and investment environment.
- Setting up technical database.
- Participating in funding and conducting studies or procedures to meet the needs of economic actors at the local and international levels.
- Participating in financing and supporting local and foreign economic actors in order to ensure the success of their businesses.
- Supporting the private initiatives and developing companies in Mauritania.

Imports and exports:

Exports:

Mauritania exports fish, agricultural products, iron and steel, animals, sugar and grains.

Imports:

The country imports petroleum, wheat, rice, machinery, equipment and consumer products.

Tourism:

The authority in charge of tourism is the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Handicrafts and Tourism.



Functions of the ministry include the following:

- Studying and evaluating national tourist potentials in order to make them valuable;
- Preparation and implementation of laws relating to the tourist sector;
- Preparing and proposing the means necessary to reclaim areas of tourism value, and in consultation with the relevant partners;
- Collection, use and dissemination of statistics related to tourism;
- Inclusion and co-option of economic actors as well as social and professional organizations of the sector;
- Ensuring development at the sectoral level;
- Ensuring that tourism activities are harmonious with laws and regulations;
- Development, follow-up, and coordination of the activities of partners in the field of tourism;
- Ensuring consultation with the sector professional bodies;
- Ensuring the integration of tourism activities into the anti-poverty strategy and national policy to upgrade traditional industry.

The most important tourist areas are as follows:

-Nouakchott, the Capital:

Nouakchott is the administrative and commercial center of the country. The meaning of its name is "the well of shells". All means of transportation and telecommunications technology, facilities, hotels, markets, are available in the city. Its houses are characterized by their special urban style coupled with an elaborate decoration and precious wood doors.

The city was founded in 1958; it has an airport, an important seaport and a commercial museum that contains important historical holdings. It manufactures carpets and ornate rugs; it has a large market run by women.

Wadian

It is situated in the desert, 120 km to the north-east of Chinguetti. The city was built 800 years ago on hillside and was a center for camel caravans which were carrying gold, salt, and dates.

Among the most prominent landmarks is the old mosque and a mansion known as Alqlala Palace whose architectural style is featured by its colors derived from the local environment.

Targit

It is regarded as one of the most attractive places for visitors in the Adrar area, which is a small oasis, where there are many springs with hot and cold water that can be visited all year round. These springs feed water into irrigation canals surrounded by bushes, thus reflecting a spectacular sight and a very favorable atmosphere.

Annua Athibo or Baer al-Tha'aleb:

Baer al-Tha'aleb is located to the north-west of the country, 525 km away from the capital; it is considered as the economic capital of Mauritania.

It is characterized by breathtaking nature; it extends along a Peninsula in the form of a fiord in the sea, which is heading south parallel to the mainland. The ships carrying vast quantities of fish and iron dock at its seaport.

Atar

Atar is situated in a beautiful oasis, 451 km to the northwest of the capital.

It is the center of Adrar state and is famous for dates picking season, where celebrations are held in the summer especially punctuated by dancing and singing.

The bustling city is a commercial center for the surrounding areas. Of its landmarks is Blacksmiths market and is characterized by narrow alleyways and a French castle dating back to the Second World war. The city is also surrounded by orchards that attract foreign visitors.

Walata

Walata is located to the south-east of Mauritania and is regarded as one of its most beautiful cities. Viable tourism and tourist services are available in the city though an access to it through the desert requires a travel by air due to lack of paved roads. Its decorated houses overlaid with copper attract tourists as their wood doors are inlaid with copper and colors derived from natural materials available in the area. The industry of crockery is thriving there.



The city also has a famous religious school, and there are many scripts kept in its libraries, which are of priceless scientific and historic value.

Republic of Namibia

The Population of Namibia amounted to 2.3 millions, with an average growth rate of 1.8%, according to 2010 estimates. The country's area stands at 824.292 sq km.

Namibia is heavily dependent on the extraction and processing of minerals for export. Taxes and royalties from mining account for 25% of its revenue. Rich alluvial diamond deposits make Namibia a primary source for gem-quality diamonds. Namibia is the fourth-largest exporter of nonfuel minerals in Africa, the world's fifth-largest producer of uranium, and the producer of large quantities of lead, zinc, tin, silver, and tungsten. The mining sector employs only about 3% of the population while about half of the population depends on subsistence agriculture for its livelihood. Namibia normally imports about 50% of its cereal requirements; in drought years food shortages are a major problem in rural areas.

Namibia is seeking to diversify its trading relationships away from its heavy dependence on South African goods and services. Europe has become a leading market for Namibian fish and meat, while mining concerns in Namibia have purchased heavy equipment and machinery from Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada. The Government of Namibia is making efforts to take advantage of the American-led African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which will provide preferential access to American markets for a long list of products. In the short term, Namibia is likely to see growth in the apparel manufacturing industry as a result of AGOA.

In 2003, Namibia signed the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). It is also a member of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and has acceded to the European Union's Lomé Convention.

Natural resources: Mining forms 8.8% of GDP; the key minerals are diamonds, uranium, zinc, gold, copper, lead, tin, fluor spar, salt, fisheries and wildlife.

Agriculture accounts for 4.1% of GDP; the key Products include livestock, meat products, agricultural crops and forests.

Fishing and processing constitutes 2.7% of GDP.

The country's major exportable items are diamonds, minerals manufactures, lead, uranium, copper, fish, cattle and beef.

Major importable commodities of the country are food, fuel and energy, capital goods, crude oil and petroleum products.

Investment opportunities:

There are various investment opportunities in Namibia as follows:

- Transport infrastructure
- Housing and sanitation.
- Agriculture and Agro-industry
- Mining and Energy
- Manufacturing
- Good prospects for oil and gas exploration and processing.
- Fisheries
- Tourism
- Manufacturing of pharmaceutical products
- Cement manufacturing
- Steel manufacturing
- Textiles and garments manufacturing
- Manufacturing of automotive components
- Manufacturing of building materials
- Furniture assembly

Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

The Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) assumes the following

primary responsibilities:

- To represent the general interest of the business community.
- To cooperate, through dialogue, with the country's various private and public sector bodies
- To play an advisory role when engaging with the government and other stakeholders
- To promote economic development
- To provide market information and economic statistics.
- To encourage domestic and foreign investment.
- To facilitate local and international trade.

Tourism:

Namibia is featured by its fascinating tourist attractions that lends a good deal of enjoyment, excite-



ment and recreation. These include the following:

Namib Desert

The Namib Desert is often referred to as the world's oldest desert. Namibia gets its name from the Namib, so it should come as no surprise to discover that the entire western part of the country is comprised of the Namib. Of course, the Namib spreads beyond the borders of Namibia and flows into southern Angola and the northern Cape Province of South Africa.

Brandberg Mountain

Brandberg Mountain is Namibia's highest mountain, which is 2606 m high above sea level.

Sossusvlei:

The Sossusvlei is perhaps the highest sand dunes in the world. Situated in Namibia, these dunes are as high as 300 meters. The Sossusvlei covers a great expanse of almost 500 square kilometres of the mighty Namib Desert, which is considered to be one of the oldest deserts by many geologists.

Swakopmund

Namibia's premier seaside resort town, Swakopmund attracts fishermen and adventure enthusiasts from all over the world. The dunes are perfect for sand-boarding and quad-biking. The ocean is cold and wild, just the spot for some spectacular deep-sea fishing and beach angling. The German flavor of this little town is still palpable and very interesting for the visitor.

Etosha National Park

In the vast arid space of Northern Namibia lies one of Southern Africa's best loved wildlife sanctuaries. Etosha National Park offers excellent game viewing in one of Africa's most accessible venues. Zebra and springbok are scattered across the endless horizon, while the many waterholes attract endangered black rhinoceros, lion, elephant and large numbers of antelope. Etosha, meaning 'place of dry water' which provides parched, silver-white backdrop of shimmering mirages to an area of semi-arid savannah grassland and thorn scrub.

Skeleton Coast

Namibia's Skeleton Coast is one of our planet's most beautiful places and is now host to one of our finest safaris.

The Waterberg Plateau

The Waterberg Plateau east of Otjiwarongo towers over the surrounding plains, being about 200 metres higher. The 20 kilometre wide and 50 kilometre long table mountain massif consists of porous sandstone.

Fish River Canyon

The Fish River Canyon is located in the south of Namibia. It is the second largest canyon in the world [1] and the largest in Africa, as well as the second most visited tourist attraction in Namibia. It features a gigantic ravine, in total about 100 miles (160 km) long, up to 27 km wide and in places almost 550 metres deep. The river flows intermittently, usually flooding in late summer.

Daan Viljoen Game Reserve

Daan Viljoen Game Park is considered as Windhoek's Zoo.

Museums:

- 1- Tsumeb Museum
- 2- Owela Museum
- 3- Transnamib Railway Museum
- 4 - Geological Survey Museum
- 5- National Marine Aquarium.

Republic of Congo Brazzaville

The Population of Congo Brazzaville stands at 3,686,000 living over an area of 342,000 sq km. Rains fall all year round, especially during the solstice and equinox.

The key Congolese cities are Brazzaville, Kayes and Dolisie while the main seaports are Pointe-Noire and Nairi.

Economy:

- Congo's total GDP reached \$17.108 billion, while the per capita income stands at \$4,426.
- In Congo, there is only one chamber of commerce called Brazzaville Chamber of Commerce, which works towards promoting economic development in the private sector, and contributes significantly to the improvement of business climate, in addition to stimulating overall economic growth in the country.

Agriculture:

There are many agricultural crops in Congo, in-



cluding subsistence crops such as cassava, rice, and maize. The export crops are sugar cane, cocoa, coffee, bananas, cotton, peanuts, product. The country remains largely dependent on food products imported from other countries.

- Congo produces offshore oil, which represents 90% of its exports. It also has

has natural resources, including potash, copper, diamonds and gold in addition to hydroelectric power. It exports tropical timber such as ebony and Akajo.

- Congo has strategic maritime transportation network, as Brazzaville is situated on the River Congo and Bwatoar lies on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Industries are based on Manufacturing.

Exports and imports:

Congo's main exports are oil, timber, coffee, cocoa, sugar, food diamonds. The imports include consumer goods, capital equipment, petroleum, cement, cigarettes, beverages, and sugar.

Investment opportunities:

There are several investment opportunities in a number of sectors in Congo, including:

- Infrastructure.
- Roads and Transport.
- Energy.
- Agriculture.
- industry.
- food processing.
- tourism.
- medicines.
- services.

Investment laws provide for a number of incentives that encourage investment. These include:

- Full or partial exemption from certain taxes and capital profits in case of reinvestment.
- profits, which are part of assets, can be invested within three years and are not subject to income tax.
- In case of loss, Investors can deduct any loss incurred from the taxes payable during the next three years. In addition, the investment law provides for five incentives investors interested in

the following fields:

- The promotion of economic activity and employment.
- reinvestment of profits.
- research and innovation.
- export.
- investment in the less developed regions, the tax exemption period ranges from five to ten years.

Tourism:

The Republic of Congo is known for its historic heritage and awe-inspiring landscapes, including picturesque villages, beautiful beaches and religious legacy, in addition to wonderful traditional and national parks and natural reserves. The country's tourist attractions include:

- The beautiful sandy beaches of the city of Indian Abwant, which are surrounded by coconut trees.
- lakes and canals in the city of Diosso.
- Waterfalls in the City of Loufoulakari.
- **Rivers:** the River Croix Coma, River Kouilou and Djoué, among others.
- **Historical museums:** Cross Coma Museum and Kinkala Museum.
- Wildlife and national parks in Odzala, and Lefini.
- folklore and art.
- Warm and pleasant climate all year round.

Congo has many luxury hotels that offer amenities and entertainment to the satisfaction of investors and businessmen.

Most hotels provide their customers with high-quality tourist services, such as delicious food, laundry, swimming pool, golf, club, massage, phone, fax, internet, computer, and others. Besides, some hotels provide customers with car rental service to facilitate their movement around the city.

Tourist sites include:

- Lekoli-pandaka Wildlife Reserve, which lies to the north of Lekoli.
- Mount Fouari sanctuary and northern Nianga protectorate.
- Odzala National Park.
- Wildlife Reserve in Lefini.



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